

Mellor defends penal policy

Inmate dies as riots hit eight prisons

By Richard Ford, Ray Clancy and Ronald Faux

THE series of disturbances in Britain's jails claimed another death last night.

A prisoner was found dead in a fire-damaged cell at Dartmoor jail when 100 rioting inmates gave themselves up after 24 hours of trouble in the category B prison.

The end of the disturbance came as a minister strongly defended the Government's penal policy and its handling of the unrest.

During the day there were skirmishes between prison officers and inmates at eight other jails, while at Strangeways in Manchester, Britain's longest-running prison riot entered its second week.

Trouble broke out at Cardiff, Hull, Leeds, Brixton, Long Lartin, Bristol, Shepton Mallett, and Pentonville, north London.

The ending of the Dartmoor protest came after one of the worst days in the history of Britain's prison service.

The latest disturbances broke out at Bristol prison last night, where officers withdrew from a wing after 200 remand prisoners were involved in a disturbance. Fifteen climbed on to the roof and began hurling tiles to the ground, they waved a banner reading "Dartmoor boys on tour".

After the prisoner was found dead in Dartmoor, Devon and Cornwall police began an inquiry, and a spokesman from the Home Office said:

Mr John May, the governor, declined to give any details of

the death and said it was not yet known how and when the fire had been started.

At Strangeways, about 20 inmates still defied efforts of prison officers and police to dislodge them while two prison officers at Cardiff jail and three in Brixton received injuries during disturbances.

In Armley jail, Leeds, prisoners returned to their cells after staging a sit-down protest in the exercise yard.

Mr David Mellor, Minister of State at the Home Office, strongly rejected criticism that the rioting at Strangeways should have been ended by force and described the unrest at Dartmoor as a "copycat incident".

Speaking on TV-am, he was in no doubt where blame for the troubles in the prisons lay: "People say the Government is on the rack. It should be the prisoners on the rack."

He said people should be careful about saying prisoners were protesting objectively against conditions.

"What those men did at Strangeways was to attack other prisoners and injure some of them seriously, even though it would appear nothing like as bad as some of the wild rumours that were being reported in the press last week."

Criticising the media for reporting rumours as fact, Mr Mellor admitted there could be one or two bodies at Strangeways.

"There might be one or two grisly discoveries and possibly there may be nothing at all," he said on a day which he admitted had been a very difficult for the British prison system.

He condemned earlier "rather dreadful reporting of 20 dead" and said reports of rumours as fact had not been confined to the tabloid press.

Although some Conservative MPs have called for the troubles at Strangeways to be ended by force, Mr Mellor said: "The situation continues because the state of the buildings makes it too dangerous for direct action to be attempted without risks of further injury and loss of life."

He had received strong operational advice that it would not be right to run these risks, he said. He added however that the same considerations did not necessarily apply to incidents at other prisons.

Mr Mellor said certain steps had been taken at Dartmoor in advance because the authorities had had an hint of trouble.

"Half a dozen people regarded as troublemakers were isolated and other steps were taken and the trouble was contained. If people want to

cause trouble, there is always scope for them to do so," he added.

As the trouble flared prison officers' leaders warned Ministers that a state of anarchy was overrunning the nation's prisons; the Labour Party demanded a full inquiry into the prison system.

Mr David Evans, general secretary of the Prison Officers' Association, warned that the prison system was on the verge of collapse.

"I think the system has reached the point where it could well collapse unless the problems that are endemic within the system are attended to very quickly," he said.

Mr John Bartell, chairman of the association, said unsupervised anarchy had existed in the prison service for a number of years.

"I am afraid ministers cannot be allowed to blandly come up with excuses," he said.

Mr Mellor, however, strongly defended the Government's penal policy and a Home Office spokesman dismissed as "somewhat exaggerated" the claim that the system was verging on collapse.

The spokesman added: "It is a matter of concern that there are problems occurring at a small number of prisons. But the vast majority of the prisons system is running smoothly and as normal."

"You must remember that we have about 130 prison establishments around the country and the disturbances have affected a small proportion of those."

Asked if governors at other prisons had been put on alert, he said: "Governors are aware of the problems at a small number of prisons and security is always foremost in their minds."

Mr Mellor said a balance had to be struck between conditions that people would find objectionable and a too permissive regime.

"If you allow too much freedom for prisoners, that becomes abused because people do not respect the regime."

"When things go wrong, there is a tendency for people to look for scapegoats. I feel sorry for the governor at Strangeways because he was praised by the Chief Inspector of Prisons for having done so much to improve the regime there."

"It is unfortunate that he should have been paid back in this coin by prisoners who should have been grateful that conditions are so much better than they were."

Prison death, page 2
Treating prisoners, page 12

Frenchman charged

From Susan MacDonald, Cherbourg

A FRENCHMAN with a history of violent crime was yesterday charged with the murder of a young British woman, whose body was discovered in her offices in Cherbourg last week.

Police said M Jean-Marie Chanteau, aged 25, was charged with the murder of Alison Dutton, aged 24, who was repeatedly stabbed in an apparently motiveless murder on Wednesday. He was also being charged with the at-

tempted murder in February of a young Frenchwoman, who was seven months pregnant. Police said he confessed to both crimes.

The state prosecutor in Cherbourg revealed yesterday that the suspected murder weapon — a six-inch knife — was found at his house. M Chanteau was last year jailed for 18 months for robbery with violence.

Full report, page 22

Budweisers call a truce in the ice-cold war

From Philip Robinson
Los Angeles

EAST Europe's new freedoms have brought to a head a century-old dispute over who may brew Budweiser beer — the American brewing giant Anheuser-Busch or Budejovicky Budvar, the Czech brewery, which claims the name dates from 1265.

Anheuser-Busch is negotiating with Budvar to dissolve a trade mark agreement which has banned Budvar from selling its Budweiser in most of Europe for more than half a century.

At the centre of the dispute is the claim by the Czech brewer that the founder of Anheuser-Busch used the

name illegally when the company began brewing "Bud" in St Louis, Missouri, in 1876.

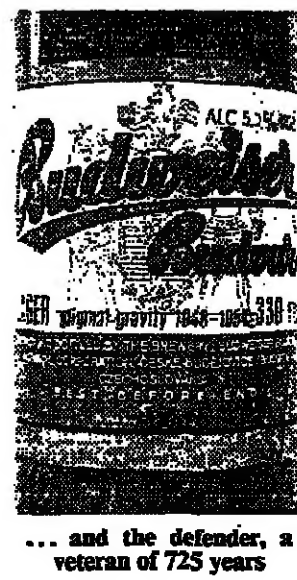
Neither side will discuss what amount to trade agreements signed in 1911 and 1939 or the current talks. An Anheuser-Busch spokesman said: "Due to the active nature of these discussions, we cannot comment."

According to the Czechs, Budweiser was first brewed in 1265 in Budweis (now Ceske Budejovice), not far from Pilsen, in what is now southern Czechoslovakia. By 1531 the city was supplying beer to the kings of Bohemia. Germans set up the first company using the Budweiser name in 1795. The present company was formed — and

registered the trademark — in 1895, and the brewer was nationalized by the Soviet Union in 1948.

Anheuser-Busch says Budweiser was first sold by them in 1876. It says it registered the trademark in 1878 and claims it has the right to use it in all "significant beer drinking countries of the world, including a number of European countries."

The imminent grouping of 360 million beer drinkers in one barrier-free European market in 1992, and the thawing of the cold war between the West and East has accelerated Busch's desire to settle its differences with the tiny Bavarian border brewer.



... and the defender, a veteran of 725 years

Labour shapes election policy

By Philip Webster
Chief Political Correspondent

THE Labour Party is preparing to build on its surge in public support by publishing an "early manifesto", which will be the platform for a campaign of 18 months to two years for the next general election.

It is also pressing ahead with historic proposals to reduce the power of the trade unions in the Labour movement.

Mr Neil Kinnock has asked a group of his most senior colleagues to draft the so-called "campaign document", pulling together the conclusions of the three-year policy review and charting a course for the party for the next election.

Party leaders believe that the move will give the lie to Conservative claims that Labour either has no policies or is wary of publishing them.

It will be combined with the most far-reaching of all the reforms of Labour's constitution brought forward by Mr Kinnock — the reduction of the block vote.

Under plans to be discussed by Labour leaders this month the unions' 90 per cent of voting strength at the Labour conference would be reduced to 70 per cent this year and 60 per cent next year, with corresponding increases in the voting strength of party members.

The campaign document will clarify Labour's stance on issues on which doubts have been raised and will set out new policies in controversial areas on which work carried out over the last few months is nearing completion.

These include Labour's alternative to the poll tax; its policy on industrial relations, soon to be outlined by Mr Tony Blair, spokesman on employment; and its attitude to defence spending in the wake of the changes in Eastern Europe.

Crucially, it will also provide a clear idea of what the Labour leadership believes the priorities would have to be for an incoming Labour government.

Members of the drafting group for the campaign document

Continued on page 22, col 1

Police suspect arson in ferry blaze disaster

From David Sapsted, Lysekil, Sweden

THE fire that had raged for more than 36 hours on the ferry Scandinavian Star was finally quelled late yesterday, enabling the gruesome task of recovering the bodies of the 148 passengers and crew believed to have died in the disaster to begin.

As police and ambulance crews started removing bodies in metal containers from the stern of the 10,513 tonne vessel docked at this Swedish port, the police commissioner for the district confirmed that two fires had broken out almost simultaneously on the ship at about 2 am on Saturday.

Amid growing criticism yesterday of the confusion that survivors said reigned among the mainly Portuguese and Filipino crew members after the fire erupted, Commissioner Roar Onso refused to comment on claims by the ferry's skipper, Hugo Larsen, that the blazes had been deliberately started.

But the assistant chief of police in Oslo, Mr Magnar Aukrust, said: "We are basing our work on the concrete theory that it was arson."

Mr Onso said: "The first fire broke out in a corridor outside cabins on the port side of the

car deck. Passengers found a bundle of sheets alight and extinguished them. A few minutes later, we believe a fire started in a cabin on the starboard side, a deck higher. It was this that caused the tragedy, but we do not know how either one started."

Mr Onso also said he had no clear idea of how many people were on board the ferry when it left Oslo on Friday evening for Frederikshavn in Denmark.

The skipper has put the figure at 493, including 98 officers and crew. A total of 345 people are known to have survived but, as no passenger manifest was kept on shore — in contravention of Norwegian law — and as the one the skipper said he had taken on board has now been destroyed, the true figure will not be known until all the bodies are recovered.

So far firemen working inside the vessel are believed to have found about 75 victims, but they have been working in zero visibility in breathing apparatus.

Firemen said they had found lorry drivers dead in the cabins of their vehicles, despite an international maritime regulation.

A Swedish commission of inquiry, with Norwegian and Danish participation, is expected to begin work this week. Crucial questions will centre on safety standards on the vessel. One survivor, Mr Leo Opland from Copenhagen, said he had found wires had been cut when he tried to trigger a fire alarm. Others have said that no alarm was heard until almost four hours after the fires broke out, by which time most of the passengers were believed to be dead.

Crew training will also be examined by the commission. Although officers on the vessel, which was registered in the Bahamas, were Danish, the Portuguese and Filipino seamen were criticized by survivors for doing little to help their escape, with many of the crew allegedly reverting to their native languages in panic.

The recovery of bodies, which were taken to a temporary morgue on the quay before being returned by ambulance to Oslo for identification, was due to continue throughout the night.

Swedish entry, page 9
Perilous battle, page 9

Nepal lifts ban on political parties

Kathmandu

KING Birendra of Nepal said yesterday that he was lifting the country's 30-year ban on political parties. Opposition leaders, including Mr G.P. Koirala, the general secretary of the Nepali Congress Party, immediately announced that they would call off pro-democracy protests.

The Government of the Himalayan kingdom has been under increasing pressure since February to reintroduce parliamentary democracy.

State-run television said yesterday that the King, aged 44, had met four opposition leaders, two left-wingers, and two from the banned Nepali Congress Party, which both launched and is leading the pro-democracy movement.

At least 50 people were killed when the Army opened fire in Kathmandu on Friday as tens of thousands of people tried to march on the King's palace to demand democracy.

In announcing that they were calling off the protests, the opposition leaders welcomed the statement by the King. (Reuters)

Earlier report, page 11

East Europe urged to join drugs war

By Stewart Tendler

BRITAIN is proposing that four East European countries should join a West European initiative to combat drug abuse. Mr David Mellor, Home Office minister with responsibility for fighting illegal drugs, disclosed the plan yesterday on the eve of the ministerial drugs summit in London.

As over 500 delegates from 112 countries were arriving for the three-day summit Mr Mellor said Britain wants Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland and Yugoslavia to join the Pompidou Group of 20 European countries.

"We know drug misuse has no national boundaries and that international co-operation is a necessity, not an option," he said. A number of East European countries have

admitted drug problems. Several, including Yugoslavia, are used by traffickers to route drugs to the West.

The Pompidou Group provides a forum for greater co-operation across Europe. Many East European countries have sent delegates to the summit which will be concentrating on the threats from cocaine.

Today the Prime Minister will open the summit with what is forecast to be a major speech on British plans and President Barco of Colombia is also due to speak. The President, a potential target for Colombian cocaine cartels, is under heavy armed guard throughout his stay.

Summit agenda, page 8
Legalization moves, page 8

Keep the health service going.

At 9 am, six days a week, Elizabeth, like many other health workers in Bangladesh, cycles off to the local villages.

She carries out an immunisation programme, teaches villagers about sanitation and the dangers of unclean water, and often has to treat infected wounds. She keeps a careful record of the progress of pregnancies. By detecting abnormalities early, the maternal mortality rate is being lowered considerably.

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Surprises in the FA Cup

Crystal Palace yesterday beat Liverpool 4-3, after extra time, to qualify for the FA Cup final for the first time. The result was one of the great surprises of the football season — for Liverpool are clear leaders of the League, they are the Cup-holders, and they beat Palace 9-0 in the League this season. The other semi-final produced a further upset, with Oldham Athletic, of the second division, holding Manchester United to 3-3 after extra time. Pages 34 and 36

Schools loss

Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education, says failure fully to implement the scheme for giving school governors control of budgets was costing some schools up to £400,000 a year. Page 3

Media limited

There is a trend in Britain towards limiting what is said on TV and in the press, says a report by Justice, British section of the International Commission of Jurists. Page 4

Georgia mourns

As Tbilisi, the Georgian capital, yesterday marked the anniversary of last year's massacre by Soviet troops, nationalists were claiming to have the upper hand. Page 10

New tourist trail

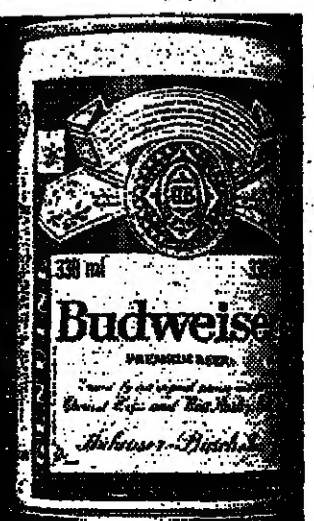
Iraq, following in the footsteps of Iran, has thrown open its doors to foreign tourists. In-trepid travellers who ignore the country's reputation for tyranny will find visas easier to obtain and free access to historic sites. Page 11

G7 yen pledge

Finance ministers and central bank governors of the Group of Seven largest industrialized economies have resolved to resist an "undesirable" decline in the yen. Page 23

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On the left, the challenger, aged 114 ...

Dartmoor prisoner is found dead in burnt-out cell

By Ray Clancy

A PRISONER was found dead in a burnt-out cell after the Dartmoor Prison riot ended last night, 24 hours after 100 inmates had started the unrest.

The inmates had taken control of the Devon prison's D-wing, destroying most of the wing and starting fires.

The death was confirmed by Mr John May, the prison governor. He said that the wing had been extensively damaged.

A Home Office pathologist was called to the prison and Mr Brian Phillips, assistant constable, operations, of Devon and Cornwall police, said his force would be investigating.

The prisoners had progres-

sively given themselves up during the day and were fed and relocated in other parts of the Victorian jail. Officers immediately searched D wing.

"Tragically we have discovered a body in a cell in which there had been a fire," Mr May said.

Two prisoners surrendered last night. They had called to the ground, where trained negotiators were in position, and a fire brigade hoist was manoeuvred alongside the roof of C-wing and the men climbed on board and were taken to the ground.

However, as the clean-up operation began inside the jail a single prisoner carried on with a lone protest on the roof. He could be seen jumping on

the roof and waving his arms around and occasionally appeared to be kicking at a few tiles, though he did not throw them.

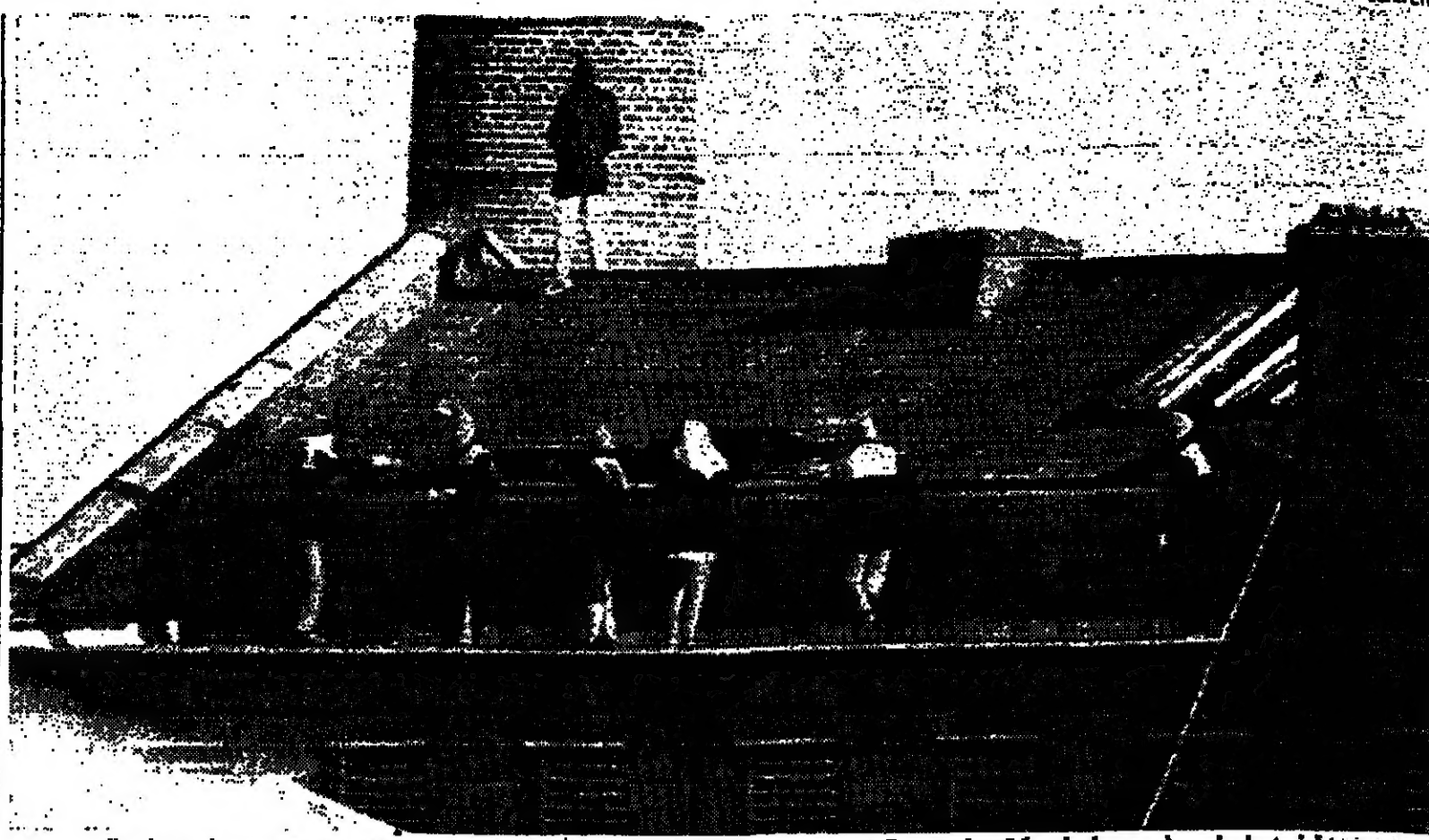
Mr May said there was no confrontation when prison officers regained control. "We received into our custody all those people who surrendered, our staff and their colleagues from elsewhere did a sweep through the wing and confirmed that there was no one left apart from one inmate on the roof," he said.

Mr May confirmed that doors were ripped from the cells, tiles from the roof and furniture thrown around during the riot. "It looks very messy at the moment, there is a lot of debris," he said.

Mr May denied, however, that he and his colleagues could have done anything more to prevent the disturbance. "We were faced with a small group of prisoners, who who managed to incite some of their comrades."

Plans to end the degrading practice of "slopping out" in prisons are likely to be accelerated after the jail disturbances, it emerged yesterday (Quentin Cowdry writes).

Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, has ordered officials to draw up a timetable for the introduction of integral sanitation in all prison cells in England and Wales.



Rooftop prisoners ripping off tiles at the height of the disturbances at Dartmoor jail yesterday. Most had come down by last night.

Fortress jail's history of unrest

Dartmoor is a 184-year-old granite fortress built 1,100 feet up at one of the windiest and wettest places in the country, Princetown in Devon. Originally built to house French prisoners during the Napoleonic wars, it has long had a reputation as a prison from which it was impossible to escape.

The building was described as grim and insanitary forty years ago, and its future was even then said to be under consideration. In 1960 the Prison Commission put forward plans to build a new jail on a less conspicuous site at

Princetown and to demolish the existing buildings, but shortage of prison accommodation brought such plans to nothing.

Since the 1960s it has been classed as a medium-security prison, and conditions for inmates have been improved.

Even so, the jail, described by a former governor Mr David Thomson, as "a human cauldron", has been plagued with problems over recent years.

Overcrowding, under-staffing and still poor conditions have strained the regime of the present governor, Mr John May, to breaking point. Twice his own prison

officers have passed votes of no confidence in his administration.

In October 1986, 30 prisoners went on the rampage smashing lights and fittings.

In July 1987, 50 prisoners staged a sit-down strike and a rooftop protest. The next month it was disclosed that 40 inmates had been disciplined for drug-taking.

In October last year three prison guards were hurt restraining prisoners threatening a sex offender. This January, 90 prisoners rioted when a goal was disallowed during a football match.

Officers injured in new unrest

By Robin Young

Disturbances erupted at several prisons yesterday as the protest at Strangeways entered its second week, and prison officers' leaders warned of a state of anarchy overrunning Britain's jails.

Five prison officers were injured yesterday, two at Cardiff and three in Brixton, south London.

More than 100 prisoners were involved in a disturbance at Cardiff jail. An officer was attacked and his keys taken from him. While 110 prisoners gave themselves up, 95 refused to return to their cells and barricaded themselves in part of the wing.

Furniture and windows were smashed and bedding was set alight. By 11.20am another 86 inmates had given themselves up.

Prison officers from Bristol, Swansea and Shepton Mallett, Somerset, were taken to reinforce the Cardiff officers.

Mr Alan Rawson, the prison governor, said he could not discount the possibility that some of the 50 prisoners transferred from Strangeways could have been among the leaders of the riot.

Three prison officers received minor injuries at Brixton when they had to force prisoners to return to their cells. A handful of prisoners had refused to return from the exercise yard.

The officers were taken to Kings College Hospital but released after treatment.

At Armley jail, Leeds, prisoners were returned to their cells after staging a sit-down protest. Extra staff had been called in and the situation was under control.

Armley is Britain's most overcrowded prison and has been the focus of concern over suicides. Its official capacity is 642 but this week it was holding more than 1,300 after 71 prisoners were transferred from Strangeways.

Yesterday afternoon prison authorities in Hull asked police for help because of a "state of unrest". Police were on standby but the situation was being contained.

In Shepton Mallett, prisoners were under a lock-up after a minor disturbance, and at Long Lartin top-security jail near Evesham, Hereford and Worcester — some of an attempted mass breakout earlier this week — a prisoner staged a protest on the roof but was talked down by officers.

There was also a small disturbance at Pentonville prison, north London, when an inmate pulled a gas pipe from a wall.

Mr John Bartlett, the Prison Officers' Association chairman, said yesterday: "What we have in the prison service, and have had for a number of years now, is unsupervised anarchy. I am afraid ministers cannot be allowed blindly to come up with excuses."

He said the prison officers had warned of more problems in jails unless the number of staff was increased.

Mellor stays in firing line as troubles spread

By Richard Ford and Stewart Tessler

AS disturbances broke out in more of Britain's jails yesterday, it was David Mellor who again bore the brunt of defending the Government's position.

The ebullient Minister of State at the Home Office was firmly in the firing line as he sorted from television studio to radio studio as he has done since the troubles erupted at Strangeways prison.

In between media appearances he was in almost constant touch with his officials at the Home Office receiving updates on the situation around the country.

Mr Mellor's work began at 8am when he telephoned from his home in Putney, south London, to the control centre handling the prison crisis at Cleland House in central London.

After being briefed, he travelled to TV-am in north London, reading the newspapers on the way and talking by car phone to a Conservative MP also commenting on the prison problems yesterday.

At TV-am the minister took part in a 15-minute interview with Anne Diamond and later had breakfast with her and Mr Bruce Gilling, the station director. He took part in an interview by telephone with an LBC programme and then did interviews outside TV-am with camera crews from Sky News and ITN.

At 10.40am Mr Mellor was at the BBC's Broadcasting House to listen to a package prepared for *The World This Weekend* broadcast at lunchtime and then took part in two interviews, one on the prison problems and the other on today's World Ministerial Drugs Summit.

At 11.25am the minister was on his way home to play with his sons for 45 minutes, and catch part of the Crystal Palace v Liverpool football match in between speaking to the Home Secretary, journalists and the Home Office press office.

He read through papers for a meeting of the Pompidou Group last night before heading for the Queen Elizabeth II Centre, Westminster, where the drugs summit is being held. He arrived at 4pm and at 5pm he chaired an hour-long press briefing. At 6.25pm he gave a briefing to British journalists on the latest

developments in the prison crisis before attending a meeting at 7pm of ministers in the Pompidou group.

At 8.30pm Mr Mellor was due to be the host of a dinner for the Pompidou Group before finally returning home.

His relentless day was a result of his departmental responsibilities, which include prisons, drugs and broadcasting. His mastery of his brief is widely acknowledged among Conservative colleagues at Westminster as is his skill with the news media.

His smooth defence of the Government's penal policy in the wake of the worst prison riot this century earned him plaudits in the Commons.

It has not always been so. His love of publicity has brought him his share of headline-grabbing attention. As a junior minister at the Foreign Office in 1988, he dressed down an Israeli officer in front of the cameras and strongly rebuked Israel for its treatment of the Palestinian Arabs. Later that year, having been switched to be Minister of State at the Department of Health, he said protests by junior hospital doctors about the length of their shifts were "fishermen's stories".

His recall to the Home Office after Mr Nigel Lawson's resignation as Chancellor of the Exchequer last year followed a tug of war as two Cabinet ministers sought his services.

The new Home Secretary, Mr David Waddington, asked for him to guide the Broadcasting Bill through the Commons but his boss, Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, was so reluctant to lose him that he had to be summoned to Downing Street and instructed to let go.



Mr Mellor: Hectic day of interviews and briefings

Siege enters second week

By Ronald Faux

THE siege at Strangeways Prison in Manchester yesterday entered its second week with about 20 inmates still defying the efforts of prison officers and police to dislodge them from the ruins of two prison blocks.

Water has been cut off to the rioters, who are subjected to a constant barrage of shrill klaxon sounds and, at night, the sweeping beam of powerful searchlight, a *son et lumière* that the prison authorities hope will bring a peaceful end to the longest prison siege in Britain, a

confrontation that has sparked disturbances at several other prisons.

Staff at Strangeways yesterday attended a Palm Sunday service — held in the officers' mess building because the chapel, where the riot began, was wrecked. Prayers were said for Mr Derek White, aged 56, the inmate who died from injuries received during the riot, and for Mr Walter Scott, aged 46, a Strangeways prison officer who died from a heart attack last week.

The Rev John Hargreaves, assistant chaplain-general of

prisons for the north of England, called for an end to the "inhumanity of overcrowding" at Strangeways.

The Home Office said yesterday that the inquiry into the riot by Lord Justice Woolf would look into a report that it began as a diversion for a breakout by about 40 inmates using hammer drills being used by contractors to renovate the 120-year-old prison. The report suggested that inmates had hoped to escape using tunnels leading from the ventilation shaft, but had found them impassable.

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School governors 'denied control of £400,000 a year'

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

THE FAILURE of local authorities fully to implement the Government's scheme for giving school governors control of their budgets was costing some schools up to £400,000 a year, Mr John MacGregor said yesterday.

The Secretary of State for Education and Science, addressing the annual conference of the Secondary Heads Association in Manchester, dismissed "scare stories" about large-scale teacher redundancies and said that many jobs could be safeguarded if schools were allowed full control of their budgets.

The 87 English authorities which began implementing the system of delegating budgets to schools from April 1 were holding back an average of 32 per cent of their gross budgets to cover centrally provided services, according to the minister.

There was no need in law for them to retain more than an eighth of their available cash for services such as payroll, school building and special government projects,

he said. Mr MacGregor urged head teachers and school governors to put pressure on local authorities to delegate more of their budgets.

That could be achieved by encouraging them to offer services such as careers advice, school libraries, cleaning and school meals on "an agency or consultancy basis" - letting the schools themselves decide whether to buy services from the authority or to look elsewhere.

With the average budget of a large comprehensive school totalling £1.5 million, a change from central provision to local choice could free up to an extra £400,000 which schools could spend as they saw fit on services or on staff and equipment.

"I can imagine many authorities being put under considerable pressure over the coming months to explain why they are not passing a higher proportion of funds down to schools," the minister said.

"After all, much of the administration is moving to the schools, passing to them a

cost. That should mean less administration from the centre.

"We really all do need to ask and probe most strongly whether the countervailing savings are being achieved in central administration and if not, why not."

"Local education authorities must not try to hold on to their old empires."

Mr MacGregor had earlier pointed out that governors now had new powers to boost the pay of individual teachers by up to £1,000 a year but he noted that the heads had complained that they had not enough money to do that.

Defending the decision to cap "the community charge" levied by 18 local education authorities among the 20 councils named last week, Mr MacGregor said: "The proposed caps are reasonable and appropriate and are achievable without disruption to services."

As Mr MacGregor spoke, the leader of the second largest teachers' union issued a fresh threat of industrial and legal action over job losses caused by the introduction of self-management for schools.

Mr Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary-designate of the 118,000-member National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, said "maverick" head teachers and governors were trying to dismiss teachers to balance the books at schools which had received lower budgets than they had expected.

He said the union had evidence that teachers in seven counties already faced redundancy less than a week after the scheme was introduced. He named Cambridgeshire, Cheshire, Hampshire, Kent, Norfolk, Nottinghamshire and Surrey.

A union survey had shown that three in five secondary schools would lose money as a result of the introduction of budgets based on pupil numbers. The average loss would be £63,000 a year or the equivalent of four teachers' salaries.

Mr de Gruchy said his union would not hesitate to take legal action against heads and governors if they attempted to make teachers redundant without following the statutory procedures.

"There is increasing evidence that head teachers and chairmen of governors are siding up to teachers and telling them that they are to be made redundant," he said.

"This practice is deplorable and breaches the statutory requirements for consultations and the proper procedures required in redundancy legislation."

He went on to accuse local authorities of "washing their hands" of the problem and said local strike action would be mounted if necessary to defend teachers at individual schools.

Polo pupils' first chukker



Novices at the Ascot Park Polo Club near Sunningdale, Berkshire, practise swinging their mallets while standing on upturned crates; the ponies come later

'False' claims on vitamins attacked

VITAMIN pill manufacturers should be banned from claiming that their products can boost children's intelligence, a pharmaceutical company said yesterday.

"Parents are totally confused by conflicting claims and some of the formulations on sale are a disgrace," Mr Pradip Pattani, managing director of Vitality UK, said.

"It cannot be right to encourage parents to dose children with vitamins to make them more intelligent. The only way to ensure children get all the nutrients they need is to make sure they get a healthy balanced diet."

He said two studies published last week contradicted each other about the effect of vitamins on IQ.

Speaking at the Helfax trade exhibition in Birmingham, Mr Pattani supported the Consumers' Association's call for stricter controls over "misleading and illegal claims."

A new method of eliminating the risk of a baby inheriting a genetic disorder has been used by doctors conducting embryo research at Hammer-smith hospital, west London (Pearce Wright writes).

The procedure has been developed for use in conjunction with conception by in vitro fertilization.

It depends on determining the sex in the laboratory before replacing only female embryos in the mother. After unsuccessful attempts, two women are believed to be pregnant with baby girls achieved this way.

The experimental procedure, called pre-implantation diagnosis, was approved by the Voluntary Licensing Authority.

AGENDA

The week ahead

Today
The World Ministerial Drug Summit is opened by the Prime Minister at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in London and runs until Wednesday. The first Argentine minister to visit Britain since the Falklands conflict, Mr Domingo Cavallo, the Foreign Minister, holds talks with Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary. The annual conference of the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association opens at Blackpool.

Tomorrow
A conference on the legal implications of protecting the environment opens at the Gloucester Hotel in London. Mr Denis Thatcher attends the launch of the Birmingham Super Prix race at Marble Arch in London.

Wednesday
Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, makes his first visit to Belfast since the unrest flared up in the 1960s. The Community Action Trust launches its Drug Command campaign against drug misuse. A jewel-encrusted Kuchinsky Easter egg goes on show in London. Young chef and waiter of the year awards are presented at the Grosvenor House Hotel, London.

Thursday
The Queen awards the Maundy Coins at the annual service in Newcastle upon Tyne. A conference, Nutrition in the Nineties, opens at the Royal College of Physicians in Edinburgh.

Good Friday
The Prime Minister and President Bush hold a summit in Bermuda. At the top of the agenda are talks on Europe and German unity, Nato, Lithuania and the Gorbachov-Bush summit at the end of May.

Easter Sunday
On the first anniversary of the Hillsborough soccer disaster a memorial is unveiled at Liverpool's football ground at Anfield.

Tax-capping 'risk to pupils'

By Douglas Broom

THE education of thousands of children in England is threatened by the Government's decision to "cap" the community charge levied by 20 councils, the leader of Britain's secondary school heads said yesterday.

Mr John Horn, president of the Secondary Heads Association, told its annual conference in Manchester that poll tax capping was one of the gravest threats to the quality of education.

He said: "We will not rest until we have won assurances that education will be protected by the Government from the effects of capping."

Speaking at the end of the three-day conference, after private talks with Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, Mr Horn said: "We have told him that he must protect education."

Of 20 councils capped last week, 18 are education authorities and the Labour Party has predicted that almost 3,000 teachers' jobs could be lost if capping cuts are made from education budgets.

Mr Horn said: "It is the single issue which worries most head teachers in the country today."

"After the problems associated with the introduction of local management schools, this has come as the final straw for many heads who already face reductions in their budgets and their staff."

Letters, page 13

Call for peaceable national anthem

By Robin Young

THE Church of England's Liturgical Commission is proposing that a more peaceable form of the national anthem should be substituted for that now used at Remembrance Day services.

The proposal is to abandon the anthem's little-used middle verse, the one which calls on God to "scatter our enemies, and make them fall; confound their politics, frustrate their knavish tricks."

The verse was said to have been Queen Victoria's favourite. In its place the commission is proposing to substitute an alternative verse penned by William Edward Hickson, a Smithfield bootmaker, and published in his book, *The Singing Master*.

Hickson's internationalist verse emphasizing the brotherhood of man runs: "Nor on this land alone - But God's mercies known From shore to shore, Lord, make the nations see That men should brothers be,

And firm one family The wide world o'er."

The suggestion that Hickson's verse be preferred is made by the Archdeacon of Leicester, the Venerable David Silk. The commission's report is to be debated by the General Synod in July.

Mr Harold Payne, president of the National Association of Far POW Associations, said: "The national anthem is precious to former POWs, because we were not allowed to sing it as prisoners. Some bishop or other is always wanting to alter things."

Mr Tony Banks, Labour MP for Newham North West, said: "This seems totally irrelevant to me. And the alternative verse is sexist."

Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark, Conservative MP for Birmingham, Selly Oak, said: "First they rewrite the Bible and make it a shambles and now they want to rewrite the national anthem and make that a shambles."

King puts multi-nation troops plan to France

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

THE GOVERNMENT is to ask the French this week whether they are prepared to join special multinational forces to defend Europe, according to Ministry of Defence sources yesterday.

Mr Tom King, the Secretary of State for Defence, will be meeting M Jean-Pierre Chevenement, his French counterpart, in Paris today, at the start of three days of talks, aimed at increasing military co-operation.

According to the sources, Mr King plans to raise the issue of multinational forces because that is regarded in the ministry as a possible military option for the alliance in a reshaped Europe.

Since it is such a sensitive issue for the French, Mr King will not be pushing M Chevenement to discuss the possibility of rejoining Nato's integrated military structure. France left in 1966, although retaining political membership.

However, Mrs Margaret

Thatcher is known to be keen for France to return to Nato's military organization. Recently Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, also underlined the importance of French participation in the new Nato structure that will emerge after Germany has reunified.

One of the first steps towards that goal could be French participation in the setting up of multinational forces.

Government sources yesterday said that so far none of the alliance members had shown any opposition to the concept. "At the moment, all are on board, the French included," one government source said. "But could the French be involved if they are not in Nato's military organization? Could it be done without embarrassing them?"

Under tentative defence ministry proposals, the multinational forces would be a "mix and match" of European

troops, according to one senior official involved in the present study of the options for changing Britain's force structures. Although Mr King favours mixed forces at divisional level, the official said that that would not rule out some Nato members contributing smaller units.

"You could also have a wholly European division and then perhaps one that consists of American and German troops, a sort of mix and match," he said.

The multinational force concept is not being discussed at the two-plus-four talks on German reunification. It is not felt to be an appropriate subject for that forum.

During Mr King's three-day visit to France, he will be attempting to continue the process of forging closer military links with the French which was begun by Mr Michael Heseltine when he was Secretary of State for Defence and continued by Mr George Younger.

'Ferrari of the Skies' poised to revolutionize private flying

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

A TINY British-designed jet, powered by engines originally planned for use in cruise missiles, may revolutionize the glamorous end of private and business flying.

The four-seater mini executive jet has been designed by Mr Ian Chichester-Miles, the former chief research engineer for British Aerospace at Hatfield.

He predicts huge sales for the 500 mph 'Ferrari of the Skies' when it goes on sale within the next three years. Officially called the Leopard, the jet will have a cruising altitude of about 50,000 ft and a range of more than 1,700 miles, yet have fuel consumption of 20 miles to the gallon.

It will sell for about £450,000 and is expected to be highly popular with wealthy young businessmen, especially in North America.

Mr Chichester-Miles gave up his job eight years ago to concentrate on the design and the first prototype is now flying. The second, fully pressurized, version is due to fly in the autumn of next year and, if all goes well, to receive its certification in 1993.

Mr Chichester-Miles, at his home at Aylot St Lawrence, Hertfordshire, where much of the design work was done, said: "The existing propeller-driven light aircraft are based on an out-moded formula and there is nothing which is small, fast and affordable around in the market."

"Through my work at Hatfield, I became aware that the advent of small turbine engines designed for cruise missiles and unmanned drones, together with the enormous improvement in electronics and lightweight components,

made such developments feasible. It meant that a small jet could fly high and fast out of almost any airfield and could be offered at a price which many companies or wealthy individuals could afford."

It was a gamble on which he has spent all his savings, but one that he is convinced will pay off soon.

"There seemed to be a bit of a lack of interest from aircraft manufacturers in this area," he said. "I realized that it would be a risk, but if you are to succeed you have to be prepared to have the courage of your convictions."

"I could not ask outside investors to put up cash to back the project until I had something to show them and that this was not just a paper aeroplane."

"I was in the extremely fortunate position of being able to raise the necessary private funds to reach the

stage we are at today. But obviously when we go into production we will need to attract outside investors and show them that they will get a good return on their money."

Detailed design work has been carried out by a Wiltshire company, Designability, and construction is being done by Slingsby Aviation, of North Yorkshire, which is already working on the second aircraft, to be built to full commercial specifications.

The Leopard is only 24 ft 7 in long and has a wing-span of just 23 ft 8 in - little longer than a large luxury motor car.

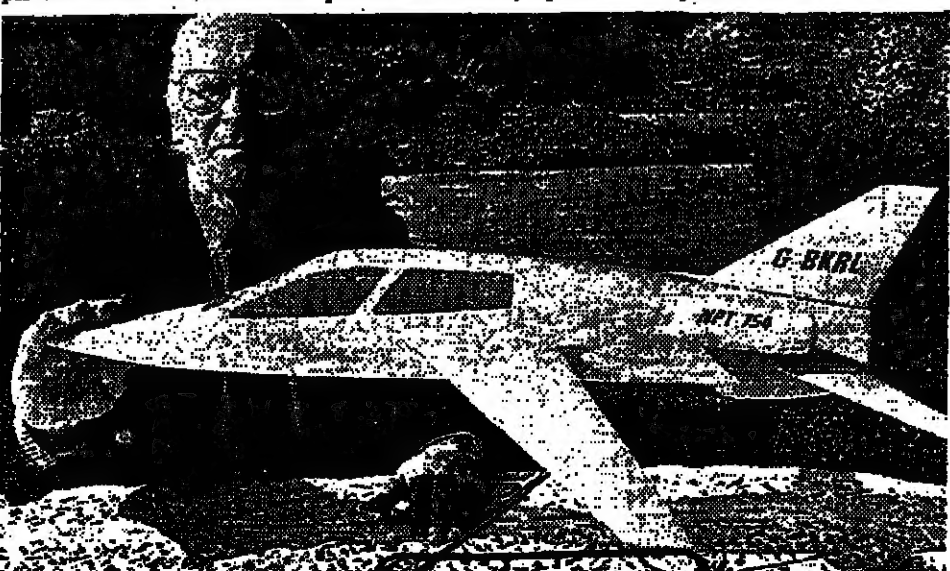
The prototype - which has so far made 12 "highly successful" flights - is powered by two American-made Noel Penny turbojets, which produce 300 lb thrust and were designed for use on military drones. The final version will have two more powerful turbofans, capable of

taking the aircraft almost to Concorde's cruising height. The Leopard will be able to carry four passengers at 500 mph - twice the speed of existing propeller-driven aircraft.

It is also good to look at - "something which I suppose comes through 32 years in the business of aircraft design," Mr Chichester-Miles says.

Most of the structure is made from glass fibre with carbon fibre stiffening and the wings and tail surfaces have been built to an advanced supercritical design to provide very low drag.

British Aerospace estimates that there may be a market worth \$5 billion (£3 billion) a year for private aircraft by the year 2000 and that very small jets such as the Leopard could take nearly 4 per cent of it, providing demand for 100 aircraft a year or 2,000 over the 20 years from 1994 to 2014.



Mr Ian Chichester-Miles with a model of his revolutionary Leopard jet aircraft

Society president proposed

Sir Michael Atiyah, Professor of Mathematics at Oxford University, has been proposed as the next president of the Royal Society, the country's senior learned society founded 330 years ago (Pearce Wright writes).

In an unusual move, the 21-member council of the society has made public its choice for the next five-year presidency, when Sir George Porter steps down in November.

A new president is elected by the society's 1,000 fellows, who include a number of scientists from overseas in addition to leading academics in Britain.

Child legal aid

An upsurge in medical negligence cases, particularly involving brain-damaged children, is expected from today when for the first time about five million children can apply for legal aid in their own right. Under new rules adults involved in personal injury cases will also gain improved access to justice.

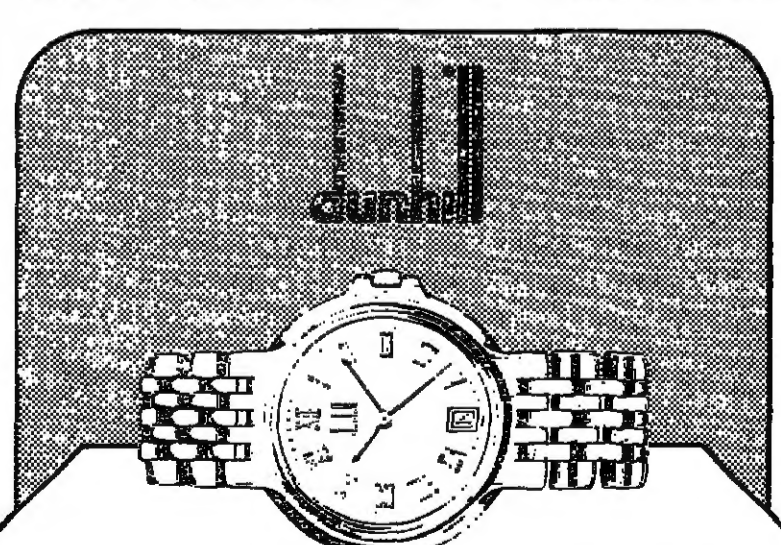
Visit decision

Mr Peter Morgan, Institute of Directors director general, will announce today whether its invitation to Mr Charles Haughey, Irish prime minister, to attend a Belfast conference on Wednesday is to stand. "Loyalist" demonstrations are expected.

Bae at Acas

Talks to end a 21-week strike by more than 1,500 British Aerospace workers will be held today at the conciliation service Acas. Manual workers at the BAE factory at Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, are in dispute over their call for a shorter working week.

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Jurists condemn curbs on freedom of media

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

FREEDOM of expression in Britain is increasingly restricted, with a trend towards limiting what may be said on television and printed in the press, according to a report published today by Justice, the British section of the International Commission of Jurists.

The report, by a committee chaired by Lord Deedes, the former Conservative Cabinet minister, highlights a "dramatic shift" in emphasis in recent months and suggests that the fundamental importance of freedom of expression is becoming secondary to specific interests, such as personal privacy and the law on blasphemy, where there is a clamour for restrictions.

"What has troubled us has been the impression that the Government and judiciary have grown progressively more careless about the principles which should govern all limitations on free expression. Instances of this abound," Lord Deedes, a former editor of *The Daily Telegraph*, says in an introduction.

He adds: "It may be argued that certain threats arise from excesses by some newspapers. It is probably true that the public today, if asked, would show itself more eager to protect the privacy of the

citizen than to defend the liberties of newspapers or broadcasting.

"That, if anything, underlines the prevailing danger to freedom of expression. It is when the antics of a minority provoke calls for new curbs on free expression, and when public indifference on the subject prevails, that the liberties of the majority are most at risk.

"When it comes to broadcasting, the coming pervasiveness of programmes by satellite is not in itself a legitimate reason for increasing censorship.

"We see a need to shift the onus of proof back to where it belongs. Freedom of expression is our bedrock. It lies with those who desire for one reason or another to impose fresh limitations on it, to adduce solid principles for so doing."

Justice's decision in 1988 to set up a committee to examine freedom of expression and the law was prompted by several legal restrictions imposed on the right to receive and impart information, including Channel 4 being restricted in its coverage of court cases, BBC television tapes being seized in the Zircon affair and the *Spycatcher* case.

"Freedom of expression then seemed to be increasingly

restricted in this country. It still seems so," the report says.

The limitations on the law on blasphemy, the interests of personal privacy and the future structure of broadcasting last year succeeded government secrecy in the shape of the Official Secrets Act 1989 as the main issues of freedom of expression.

"The dramatic shift in emphasis in only a few months, and the focus on particular problems and particular solutions, seem significant to us.

"The fundamental importance to society in general of freedom of expression seems to be considered almost as background to the specific interests that are said to require restrictions."

Freedom of expression was a basic value of society and should be restricted "only when absolutely necessary for limited purposes. It is regrettable that in this country we have to begin by making this assertion."

Although expression was still free in the UK compared to some countries "the trend here is toward limiting what may be said and shown, particularly through the press and broadcasting."

Proposals to restructure British broadcasting would allow more to participate in it

"but what they communicate is still to be restricted by bodies such as the Broadcasting Standards Council".

The Justice committee examined laws which enabled public authorities, including the courts, to regulate or restrain publication of information, or required journalists to reveal sources of their information.

It recommends enacting the Law Commission's draft Bill on breach of confidence, which would increase the protection for personal privacy by imposing an obligation of confidentiality on information obtained by surreptitious surveillance.

Judges should have the power to direct juries as to the amount of damages in libel cases, while legal aid should be available in defamation cases. The report also argues for the abolition of the crime of blasphemy.

In an interim report published in December 1988, the committee proposed a reform to the Official Secrets Act 1989, allowing a defence that an unauthorized disclosure of protected information was in the public interest.

Freedom of Expression and the Law (Justice, 95a, Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1DT)

Leading article, page 13



Miss Grace Dyson, company director, and the spectacular glass and mirror interior of John Dyson and Sons

Treasure trove found at shop

By John Shaw

SALE ROOM

A PAIR of silver candlesticks found at the back of a jeweller's display cabinet as the shop was being cleared prior to auction are expected to make £88,000-£120,000 next month.

They have been identified as the work of Nicholas Sprimont (1716-1771), a leading exponent of the English rococo style.

The find will excite silver enthusiasts because his output was so small; only about 20 other pieces of silver by him are known.

Another pair of candlesticks turned up unexpectedly last year and made £210,000 at Phillips.

The latest examples, decorated with trailing flowers, seashells and flower heads, weigh 60oz and are hallmarked London 1761. They were discovered by Eileen Goodway, a silver specialist at Sotheby's, while cataloguing the contents of John Dyson and Sons in Leeds.

They had been bought as stock earlier this century and remained in the back of the shop ever since.

Dyson's, an old-established family business, with a prominent city and county clientele, closed in February. Its remaining contents are expected to make over £500,000 in a three-day sale at Sotheby's in Chester from May 22-24.

Mr John Dyson founded his business in the middle of the last century, but the driving force was his wife who encouraged him to sell their first small shop and buy larger premises in Briggate, in the city centre.

She enjoyed taking holidays in Monte Carlo and was often

lucky at the gaming tables. Her winnings paid for the shop's splendid chandeliers and many of its clocks, purchased from the Paris Exhibition of 1870.

The spectacular glass and mirrored interior has survived intact from 1900 and is now listed as of architectural importance. The shop was a city landmark and its facade had a clock linked by hand line to the Greenwich Observatory.

At noon each day a ball above the clock face would drop, giving local people the opportunity to set their watches accurately. Meeting under the clock was popular and young couples often chose an engagement ring from the shop's display.

When they chose a wedding ring, the shop presented them with a set of six spoons, each engraved with a lucky horse shoe.

Successive generations of the family were keen collectors but were reluctant to get rid of anything. Stock purchased in the 1880s was found when Sotheby's specialists spent a week cataloguing the contents.

It included enamel hatpins, now estimated at £25-£40, 10 rows of freshwater pearls as purchased from suppliers and a set of six office spoons decorated with crossed golf clubs beneath a golf ball (£50-£70).

Sotheby's found the English furniture market unpredictable in New York at the weekend. The auction made \$1.9 million (£1.2 million) but 78 of the 270 lots remained unsold.

Maps will go back to Poland

By Michael Evans
Defence Correspondent

BRITAIN is returning 100kg of Polish military intelligence maps and survey material, taken from the Germans by British soldiers during the Second World War, in a gesture of friendship to the new democratic Poland.

The maps and folders of source information have been stored since the war in archives at the Military Survey Library at Tolworth, Surrey.

Now they have been shipped off to Poland and today Major General Patrick Fagan, Director General of Military Survey, will be meeting his counterparts in Warsaw for the first time to hand them over.

In Eastern Europe, maps have always been regarded as classified material because of the intelligence they provide of a country's terrain to a potential enemy.



General Fagan: Polish visit for handover

Police hunt for camper

POLICE denied yesterday suspecting that the killer of a couple in Wales might have been disturbed while seeking a hideaway for an IRA arms cache. Speculation grew after it was announced that a camper seen near Little Haven, Dyfed, where Mr Peter Dixon and his wife Gwenda were killed last June, might have had an Irish accent. In November, an arms dump was found near St David's, Dyfed.

Sea rescue

Four fishermen were rescued from a lifeboat 47 miles off the Cornish coast yesterday after spending 36 hours adrift when their vessel, *First Light of Helford*, sank in minutes when it was swamped by huge seas on Friday.

Rushdie ruling

Mr Salman Rushdie will find out today whether moves to have him prosecuted under blasphemy laws over *The Satanic Verses* have succeeded when the High Court rules on an action brought by the British Muslim Action Front.

Bond winners

Winners in the National Savings Premium Bonds weekly prize draw are: £100,000, bond number 348L 045570, the winner lives in Manchester; £50,000, bond number 31TF 049939, the winner lives in West Sussex; £25,000, bond number 9KL 538178, the winner lives in Dyfed.

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Bar Council rejects surrogate mothers as legal parents

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

SURROGATE mothers should not be made the legal parents of children they carry, a Bar Council working party says today.

It says that the interests of children born to surrogate mothers could be put at risk by provisions in the Human Fertilization and Embryology Bill.

Under the Bill, surrogate or "carrying" mothers would be the parent for all legal purposes and the husband the other parent if he does not object. These provisions are "unconsidered", the working party says.

The working party, set up by the Bar Council's public affairs committee, says that the guiding principle should be that the interests of the child are paramount. On that principle, the Bill should provide that where all parties are in agreement, the genetic parents should be the legal parents.

In the event of a dispute, the court should decide. That is effectively the present legal position.

The working party says that as surrogacy increases, in a

number of cases the "genetic" parents will form a close relationship with the "carrying" mother and her family.

The child might never see the "carrying" mother again. In such circumstances, the statutory legal parentage would be a mockery and confusing for any child required to cope with the situation.

The working party concludes that the use of legislation in the area of surrogacy is questionable. "Either surrogacy is so wrong that society should be defended from it by improving the sanction of the criminal law, or it is a matter of moral judgement, peculiarly within the province of personal decision."

It is difficult to "escape the feeling" that the provisions of the Bill on legal parentage reflect a "gut reaction" to a still new and startling aspect of reproduction.

© The Bar's cab-rank rule must be applied to solicitor-advocates in the higher courts or legally aided clients will suffer, Mr Anthony Scrivener, QC, vice-chairman of the Bar,

said at the weekend. If there was no cab-rank rule, by which barristers are in theory obliged to accept the next case that comes to them, then the issue would be left to market forces, he said.

"The suggestion is that instead of having the same choice as the paying client, in the future those who require legal aid or whose cause is unpopular the Law Society will endeavour to find someone willing to take the case."

That looked like the beginnings of a "public defender system" as in the United States, he said. In such a system a young lawyer cut his teeth on murders and other serious crime. "He does this until he can afford to shake it off and join the older and the more experienced, doing only the well-paid cases."

Mr Scrivener was addressing the annual conference of the British Legal Association at Lewes in Sussex, just one week before the Courts and Legal Services Bill comes before the House of Commons. The Government was defeated on the cab-rank rule in the Lords.

Final polish for a giant of steam age



Cleaners working on a 0-6-0 locomotive built in 1874 that is among over 40 exhibits going on show at Swindon Railway Centre from tomorrow.

More interest in Hong Kong over London property

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

HONG KONG residents have been showing increased interest in buying property in London in recent weeks as an investment against the uncertainties of the Chinese takeover.

British estate agents, some with offices in Hong Kong, have had hundreds of inquiries from local businessmen and British expatriates and a number have resulted in sales.

The growing interest comes as the Government is proposing to offer citizenship to 50,000 Hong Kong heads of household.

According to agents, however, it is too early to see evidence that likely recipients are looking for new homes.

Increase in house building

By Christopher Warman

SIGNS that the property slump may have reached its lowest point come from the latest figures for private house building, which show that in Great Britain starts for the first quarter of this year were 35,000, an increase of 5,400 on the last quarter of 1989.

The National House Building Council, which has published the figures, says that although this is nearly 15,000 fewer than in the first quarter of 1989, it is the first time in nearly two years that a quarterly figure has increased on the previous quarter.

Its first-time buyers' "ability to buy" index, based on a formula combining average deposit with average earnings, increased sharply in the first quarter of the year.

This is mainly because the average deposit required from first-time buyers has dropped to 17 per cent of the purchase price compared with 27 per cent at the end of 1989.

During the quarter, the NHBC says, the average price of new houses started in Wales fell by 11 per cent, by 10 per cent in Scotland and in the north of England by 4 per cent.

Mr Basil Bean, the chief executive of NHBC, said: "The underlying strength of the housing market is obviously beginning to show through again."

The main reason for the interest is that Hong Kong residents are traditional investors in property here and watch the market closely. They have been waiting as prices have fallen in the slump and now believe that the market in the smarter central areas has bottomed out.

Debenhams Tewson Residential sent out a team to hold an exhibition in Hong Kong a month ago which was attended by more than 800 people. Three have already bought apartments in a newly built six-storey block in Mayfair, paying between £265,000 and £305,000.

Mr Peter Savignette of the agents says that potential buyers insist that flats are new.

"They are buying for investment, and there is no indication that people are buying to move here at the moment. If they do decide to come, they will probably sell their present investment and buy something else, but they will have the benefit of a stake here already."

The London agents Barnard Marcus, which has an office in Hong Kong, reports a doubling of inquiries since Christmas. Mrs Fiona Sharpe, office manager, said that most Hong Kong buyers were familiar with central London, Ealing and Richmond were also popular because of the number of international schools.

They identify three categories of buyer: expatriates returning; Chinese businessmen wishing to purchase solely as an investment; and Chinese and English families buying a home for children attending school in London.

Mrs Sharpe said the Hong Kong buyer spends an average of £150,000, buying either a family home at around £250,000 or a one or two-bedroom flat at £100,000. Recently there has been a trend towards purchasing two £100,000 flats in a block rather than one £200,000 property.

With the domestic market still in the doldrums, developers have been travelling to Hong Kong to try and sell individual schemes.

Hamptons has a full-time Hong Kong desk in London to deal with inquiries. Their international division also sent a team to Hong Kong last month to exhibit a selection of their European portfolio of property, largely in France, Spain, Italy and Portugal, and report strong interest.

Delays 'keep out' legal immigrants

By Quentin Cowdry, Home Affairs Correspondent

FOREIGN nationals wanting to visit Britain can suffer "inordinate" delays getting visas even after winning appeals against initial immigration refusals, a report says today.

The United Kingdom Immigration Advisory Service has protested to the Home Office about 14 cases where officials failed to issue visas to people whose appeals had been backed by adjudicators.

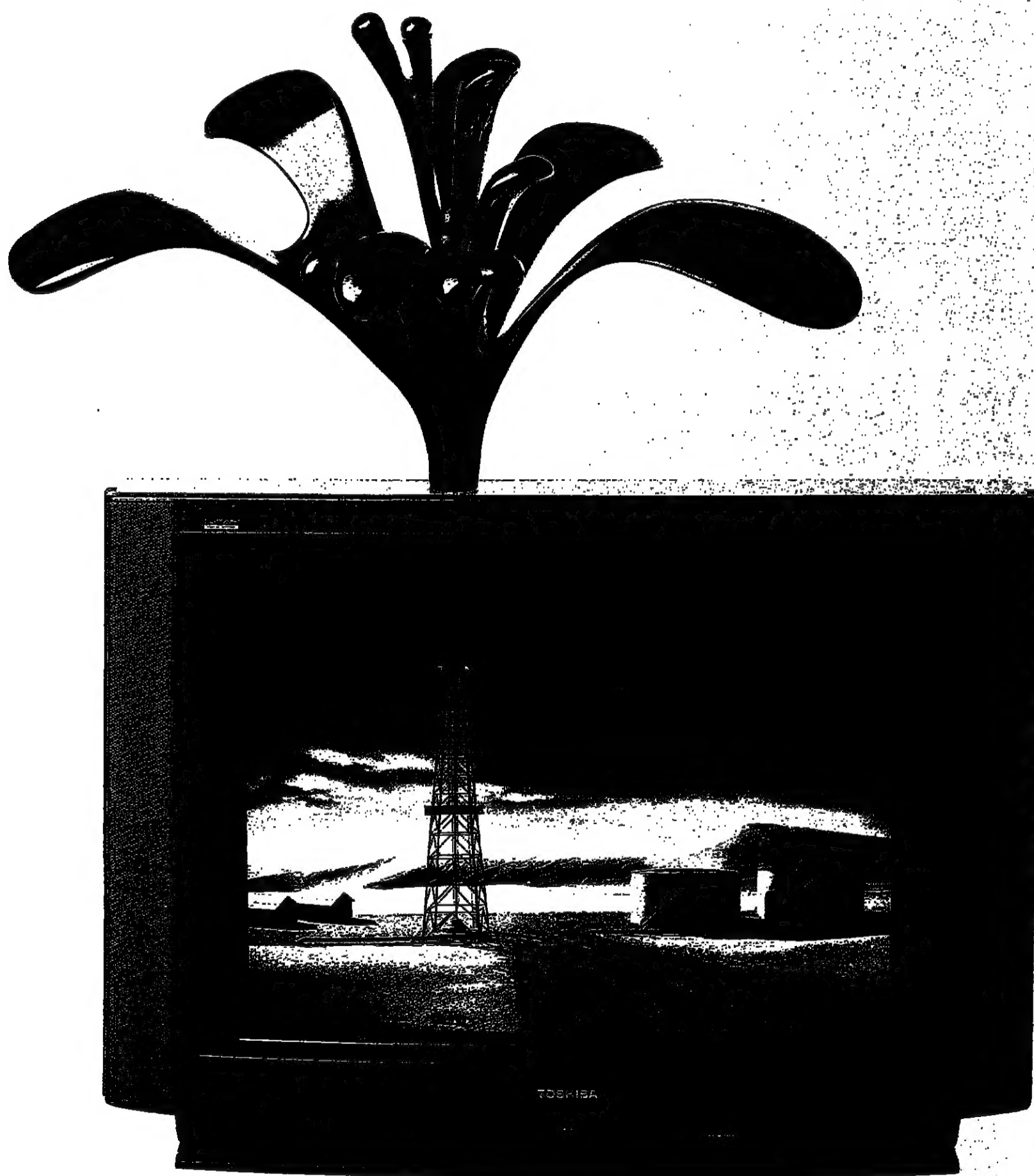
In one case, a would-be visitor from India received entry clearance more than a year after his appeal had been upheld. The service, highlighting the problem in its 1988-89 annual report, says it was also wholly unacceptable that it

took the man, who had wanted to visit Britain for three months, 18 months to have his appeal heard.

Mr David Winnick, Labour MP for Walsall North and chairman of the service, says in his introduction to the report that the appeals system in visitor cases has become "mockery".

Delays were so great that people wanting to visit Britain to attend weddings or other family occasions often found that the event was "long passed" by the time they won their appeals.

Mr Michael Barnes, the service's director, said it had a 40 per cent success rate in appeals.



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Golf course plan for scenic site brings rural rift

By John Young

AN IMPORTANT archaeological landscape is under threat from a proposed luxury hotel and golf course on the edge of Cranborne Chase, which borders Wiltshire and Dorset.

Local opinion is divided on whether the intrusion will be offset by new jobs and investment, or whether it heralds the ruin of a remarkably untouched area of rural Britain.

In many ways it epitomizes the dilemma posed by a declining rural economy and the pressure for more space for leisure pursuits.

The Chase is a sweep of open country south-west of Salisbury Plain. It is designated as an area of outstanding natural beauty (AONB) and owes its unspoiled character to the fact that it was from Norman times a royal hunting forest which was later enclosed to form a number of large estates.

One of the great estates, Rushmore, is owned by the Pitt-Rivers family. One of them, General Augustus Pitt-Rivers, took such an intense interest in his ancient surroundings that he has been called the Father of Modern

Archaeology. His great-grandson, Mr Michael Pitt-Rivers, the present owner, is widely respected and has an impeccable conservation record, having founded the group which persuaded the Government to designate the Chase as an AONB.

With other landowners, however, he is faced with the economic decline in agriculture and the need to find new uses for redundant farmland.

Golf courses are one of the most popular alternatives, both because of the strong demand created by the game's booming popularity, and because the land is not permanently lost to bricks and concrete.

Many people would argue that a well-designed and landscaped golf course is a scenic amenity. The Sports Council favours land not used for food production being diverted to other uses.

The Government's set aside scheme whereby farmers are paid to do nothing with their land is widely seen as wasteful and negative.

Sir John Dent, former chairman of the Civil Aviation

Authority, is chairman of a group fighting plans for a golfing complex on the Warwickshire-Northampton border. He says that such facilities are not intended for local people but for expensive corporate entertainment.

East Dorset District Council has given outlining planning permission for the course on Mr Pitt-Rivers' land but has upset local opinion by insisting on the diversion of an ancient footpath which runs across the land.

Mr John Curtis, chairman of the local parish council, says he has nothing against a golf course as such but "one thing we are adamant about is that our ancient right of way should be preserved".

Mr Lawrence Keen, the county archaeologist, agreed that the diversion of the footpath is unnecessary and that public rights of way can happily co-exist with golfers.

He feels that the archaeological issue has not been fully explored. "I would be happier if English Heritage or some other body had commissioned a full report so that we could be sure of exactly what is at stake."



Miss Elizabeth Waller, who is campaigning against the golf course, at the proposed site

Spoof of wartime raid leads to gift

By Emma Jackson

BASS Brewers has donated £10,000 to the association for survivors of 617 Squadron — the Dambusters — after making a spoof of their historic mission for an advertisement. The gift was made after the Carling Black Label advertisement was shown in cinemas. It is now being broadcast on television in London.

The advertisement is based on the raid on the Eder and Möhne dams in 1943 in which 53 men died. It shows a German soldier catching bouncing bombs dropped by a British plane, to the astonishment of the Lancaster pilots.

Finally one of them turns to the other and says: "I bet he drinks Carling Black Label."

The advertisement was approved by retired F1 Lt Bill Townsend, who flew on the raid, and retired Squadron Leader Tony Iveson, secretary of the 617 Squadron Association.

It has, however, been criticized by the War Widow's Association. Mrs Hazel Murphy, chairman, said: "I can see it was meant to be fun in a sense but to most of the women it wouldn't be fun at all."

Bass Brewers Ltd of Burton on Trent, Staffordshire, said the donation was made before the complaints were voiced.

Popular game needs one new course a week

By Mark Soaster and John Goodbody

GOLFERS and nature have not always enjoyed a harmonious co-existence. Now more than ever the heart of England's green and pleasant land is under threat by attempts to satisfy the explosion in demand for golf and the need for more courses.

While conservation groups accept that more courses are inevitable, it is a scale and type of development and attempt to breach planning laws on the back of the game, which have caused most concern.

The Council for the Protection of Rural England wants rigid application of planning regulations to safeguard the countryside.

Mr Tony Burton, the council's senior planner, said it was often not the golf course which caused offence, but associated developments.

Golf clubs are being used as a Trojan horse to get hotels, offices, and conference facilities into the open countryside in locations where they would be otherwise unacceptable.

"This is a very serious problem, something which local authorities are only now beginning to wake up to."

Applications for courses have mushroomed over the past 12 months. In England and Wales there are about 300 planned or under construction and another 55 in Scotland, ranging from the humble nine-hole course to a £17 million luxury complex.

It coincides with big business seeking lucrative investments after the slump in the residential and commercial property sectors.

One of the most contentious of the present crop of applications considered by West Oxfordshire Council was at Lyneham, a sleepy hamlet which united in defence of its rural tranquility.

One 18-hole course has been given approval, but an application to extend the complex into a golfers' club, to

include a 30-bedroom hotel, saunas and conference rooms, euphemistically described as the club house on the planning application, was rejected by the council a week ago.

Mr Ian Morrow, the council's assistant chief planning officer, said another application for a separate 500-acre development, to have included an equestrian centre, was withdrawn after planners recommended refusal.

"The plans are so open ended we could have had a Disneyworld there by the time they had finished," he said.

There is no doubt that the game has to expand to meet demand. At present there are 1,723 18-hole golf courses in England and Wales, with another 127 which will be ready for use by the end of 1991.

However, the Royal and Ancient Golf Club predicted two years ago that another 700 courses would be needed in Britain by the year 2000, equivalent to one new course opening every week.

The English Golf Union said 500 are needed in England alone, where there is one course for every 40,000 people.

In Scotland, where the ratio is one per 13,000 people, development has been at such a pace that the Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland recently began a survey of all golf-related developments. Many of the projects in the pipeline are linked to upmarket housing and timeshare apartments. Dr Robert Price, a researcher in the geography and topographic science department of Glasgow University, said it was important that the correct balance was achieved between environmental needs and benefit to the local economy.

There are more than 750,000 men and 160,000 women affiliated to private clubs in Britain, the majority in England where the number of golfers who are members of clubs is now exceeded by those who are not. The rest fight for the right to play on municipal courses where 50,000 rounds a year are not uncommon.

At Gleneagles, Jack Nicklaus is designing a new course. Often American-style courses involve a lot of earthmoving. However, the proposed course has three small areas, containing raised mires with rare species such as cranberries. Discussions produced the realignment of the drainage and these areas have been preserved.



Jack Nicklaus: Raised mires avoid moving earth

Big rise in global warming predicted

By Michael McCarthy, Environment Correspondent

THE United Nations report on the mechanism of the greenhouse effect which will provide the basis for action by governments has been circulated among scientists before publication next month.

The report is known to forecast considerable rises in global temperature, according to four different scenarios of future industrial development, but no further details have been disclosed.

Industrial gases, such as

carbon dioxide, cause the greenhouse effect by retaining in the atmosphere the heat given off by the earth.

The document has been produced by the Science Working Group of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

It will form the basis for the World Climate Conference to be held in Geneva in November, at which countries will try to arrive at measures to combat global warming.

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LEGALIZATION

Budget-minded reformers push case for cocaine over the counter

From Peter Stothard
US Editor, Washington

PRESIDENT Bush's drug "tsar", Mr William Bennett, wrote last week to America's favourite agony aunt, Ann Landers. He was not seeking advice; a man could drown in the advice Mr Bennett gets each day. He was giving it — to the increasingly influential US campaigners for illegal drugs to be legal.

Once it would have taken the most hard-headed libertarian to argue that heroin and cocaine be made available over the counter like alcohol, cigarettes or pain-killers. Today, as frustration mounts over a war on drugs which appears to have been launched without being fought, the legalization case is heard increasingly loudly.

To Mr Bennett, the proposed change would be a "disaster". "If we made drugs cheap, legal and readily available, drug use would surely escalate," he told Miss Landers' millions of readers. But to others who fight daily against the

country's top domestic problem, the matter is not so clear.

Judge Robert Sweet, a New York federal judge, is just one of those arguing that controlled dispensing of drugs by the Government would end criminal profiteering and save money on enforcement for use in drug treatment.

The legalization case has a long history in the fight against drugs. It is rarely posited today from the principle that a government has no obligation to save people from the failure of their own character. It is more or less accepted that drug abusers' dangers to others, whether fellow road-users or unborn babies, is sufficient to stake a public interest in reducing drug use. The crux of the more practical arguments is that the public cost of criminalizing drugs is greater than that of making them legal. The allegedly lower costs of law-enforcement and crime-reduction are thus set against the higher health and education bills.

Mr Patrick Murphy, a former New

The three-day World Ministerial Drugs Summit called by Mrs Thatcher starts in London today — and with plenty of scope for disagreement. *The Times* presents the issues which divide the 500 delegates, the extent of the problem and the attempts at solution.

York City police commissioner, accepts that drug legalization would help "diminish official corruption and reduce drug-related crime". Reducing the profits of the rich and ruthless drug gangs could return countless inner-city areas to peace, and maybe even prosperity.

On the other hand, Mr Murphy accepts that the new legal regime would also have to be policed; taxes would have to be collected; prices monitored; and black markets prevented. There would be problems in deciding which drugs could be legalized and avoiding illegal traffic in those too dangerous for any government to accept.

Treatment and education programmes would need to be expanded to

deal with potential users who now stand outside the lure of drugs. Reformers would also have to persuade sceptics that existing treatment facilities really work. Even if that were possible, the new system would not be cheap.

Would it, however, be fairer? Legalizers argue that one of the greatest inequities under the current law is that a few inner-city communities pay a disproportionate price for society's aim of keeping the number of those exposed to drugs as low as possible.

If drugs were legalized, many poor areas would be more peaceful and less crime-ridden. Other areas might have to pay a higher price of keeping young people off drugs. But that, it is argued,

would be better for society.

Varying degrees of support for legalization have come from the former Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, right-wing columnists led by William Buckley, and intellectuals including Carl Sagan and Milton Friedman. So far, people who argue for such radical change tend not to be those who have to face voters every few years. It would be a political suicide note.

In addition to the concerns of the rural and middle classes, a reformer would need to face the fact that opposition to legalization comes strongly from the very inner-city dwellers whose crime rates he wants to reduce.

An important part of all cases for legalization is the idea that only some human beings are predisposed to become addicts, and that, therefore, widening access to drugs would not produce Mr Bennett's nightmare of a "citizenry in a perpetually drug-induced haze". As the influential neuroscientist, Mr Mich-

ael Gazzaniga, puts it, only 6 per cent of the population abuse alcohol while 70 per cent drink it.

That is a highly contentious argument. It is made more difficult by the arrival on the drugs market of "crack" cocaine and other addictive substances.

One reason that the legalization campaign has taken off is the sense that the present policy is clearly not working and that something else must be tried. The Administration is being punished for the bloated expectations raised by its drug war rhetoric of the past year.

Some conservative and liberal intellectuals may be drawn to legalization, but the broader pressure is, in the opposite direction. In Alaska, where it is legal for adults to possess up to 4oz of marijuana for private use, the drug's use by schoolchildren is estimated to be three times the national average. A measure to reimpose criminal penalties stands a good chance of being passed in a November ballot.

SUMMIT AGENDA

Moves to liberalize the 'war' on drugs

By Dr Nicholas Dorn

THIS week's drugs summit will debate a policy of getting tougher with drug users, but some European speakers will argue for the emphasis to move away from the criminal justice system to services which help users reduce or discontinue the habit.

The American "Drug Tsar" Mr William Bennett is not attending, but his delegation's description of users as morally responsible for drug markets, and their associated violence and corruption, will provide a strong challenge to more liberal European views.

Inside the summit, middle ground will be explored — between the decriminalizers, and those enthusing over the prospects for more punitive approaches. On Tuesday, Dr Eddy Engelsman, of The Netherlands Ministry of Welfare, Health and Cultural Affairs, will argue that excessive repression can increase the attractions of drug use while also increasing its social and health costs.

He will say that "instead of a war on drugs, we prefer to wage a war on underdevelopment, deprivation and lack of

socio-economic status." Unlike the Americans the Dutch (and many other Europeans) see no contradiction in a policy that provides health-maintaining services to drug users who do not yet want to stop, as well as to those who do.

David Turner, director of the Standing Conference on Drug Abuse (SCODA), will address the summit on the need for education, specialist drugs services integrated with broader welfare services, and adequate funding.

The American strategy focuses millions of dollars being spent on new prison places in an attempt to reduce the demand for drugs. Directly opposed to the "drug war" philosophy of the Bush administration is a loose federation of groups favouring legalization of the trade under state controls, or decriminalization of simple possession. Two MEPs, Carol Tongue and the Italian Marco Taradash, today join civil libertarians in calling for "new approaches" to drugs. They deplore the "denial of fundamental democratic free-

doms" said to be intrinsic to trends in US drug policy. Their approach has been branded as "appeasement" by Mr David Mellor, the Home Office minister.

Also beginning this morning is the First International Conference on the Reduction of Drug Related Harm in Liverpool. Professor Geoffrey Pearson will call for the criminal justice system to be fine-tuned to encourage drug users to take up treatment options.

"Reduction of harm can mean syringe exchange schemes to cut the spread of HIV," Professor Pearson says, "but we can equally aim at a reduction of legal and social harm. I distinguish between a heavy-handed 'scattergun' approach to law enforcement that fills the courts and prisons with people who should be being helped, and a more realistic approach in which the police focus on heavy users and on user-dealers in order to push them into programmes offering alternative lifestyles."

Dr Dorn is a criminologist researching drug trafficking at the Institute for the Study of Drug Dependence.



Crack, the cocaine derivative, endemic in the US and already widespread in Britain

LAUNDERING

Britain's role in 'cleansing' cash

By Stewart Tessler, Crime Correspondent

ONLY two hours have been set aside to debate money-laundering at this week's drugs summit, although attacking profits is seen by many to be as important as the battle against smugglers and dealers.

American enforcement agencies illustrate the amount of cash generated by drugs with the fact that it took the Mafia 60 years to build up enterprises generating \$50 billion a year. In 10 years the Colombian cocaine cartels have created an American market worth \$34 billion.

In Britain in 1986 Customs officers helped to break up a gang laundering American cocaine money through this country. Up to \$200 million was believed to have been "cleansed" over two years.

No crime has generated as much cash as drug trafficking. But the volume of cash is also the trafficker's Achilles' heel. Small denominations from street sales must be turned into larger, portable money: major traffickers often no longer count cash but weigh it, knowing that \$1 million in \$20 bills equals 110lb.

Money-laundering techniques are limited only by the extent of the imagination," according to a paper produced

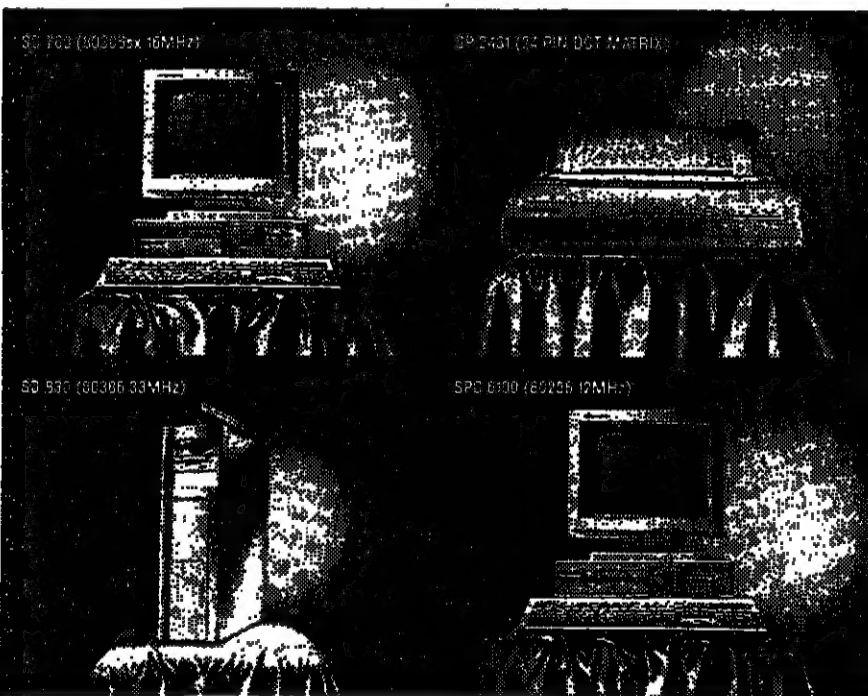
by the Drug Enforcement Agency in Washington.

The most simple way is to smuggle the cash out of the country and invest it in tax havens round the world which offer low taxation, few questions and strict bank privacy.

An FBI training manual lists 14 countries including the Channel Islands, Hong Kong, Panama, Switzerland and some Caribbean islands. The DEA would add Singapore and Andorra. Scotland Yard has run investigations on the Isle of Man, Montserrat, the British Virgin Islands, and even in the City of London.

Launderers may set themselves up as currency exchange houses, taking the traffickers' money and moving it for a share, ranging from 3 per cent to 10 per cent. Banks will accept large amounts from the exchange house without suspicion and move money abroad for them.

In Britain the Drug Trafficking Offences Act allows the seizure of assets, and puts the onus on financial houses to report suspicious transactions. The act needs improvement. The key could be among the 40 recommendations of a G7 task force, which may be unveiled this week.



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GLOBAL EFFECTS

Distorted logic of the narcotics economy

By Our Crime Correspondent

IN Medellin, second city of Colombia, they used to call the Saturday evening parade "La Marcha de Los Mercedes". A caravan of highly polished Mercedes cars would sweep into town from the homes of the cocaine chiefs for an evening of night-clubbing.

In a country where the average per capita annual income is measured in hundreds of dollars the lesson for the inhabitants of city's impoverished ghettos and the hill farmers was clear. Why bother with legitimate crops paying a mere \$3.50 per day when coca crops pay \$25? Farmers in Peru and Bo-

livia, the main areas of coca production, have learnt the same economic logic and learnt when they could be part of the solution.

Their efforts contribute to a global industry now worth \$500 billion a year, according to American calculations, although no one can claim to know the true figures. American drug sales are estimated to produce tax-free profits of more than \$95 billion.

Much of the cash finds its way through the financial centres of the world to re-emerge invested in legitimate banks and industries. Critics

say that unless banks become more open and co-operative they remain part of the problem when they could be part of the solution.

Evidence from the National Drug Intelligence Unit to a Commons select committee suggested that in Britain "there must be a vast amount of money circulating within the legitimate banking system that is drug-related. Not ap- naturally this may have a destabilizing effect on the smaller financial institutions."

In Italy the authorities warn that the Mafia will make use of the breakdown of trade frontiers in 1992 to start investing further and further across Europe.

Such an industry means the cost of policing drugs runs to billions. There are over a dozen agencies and forces in the United States fighting trafficking nationally and heavy financial support is being given to the product countries. The armed services have been brought in to the battle as well.

In Britain more than 1,000 police are committed to fighting drug revenues, and hundreds of Customs investigators. International groups involved include Interpol, the G.7 economic group, the European Economic Community and the United Nations.

It is the UN which funnels millions of pounds provided by Britain and other countries to persuade people like those tempted by the La Marcha de Los Mercedes that there are better crops to grow than narcotics. So far success is slow.

Colombia would like to be known for its exports of flowers, tropical fruits and shrimps. The world is more likely to remember its role as the breeding ground of cocaine traffickers.

An American survey in 1987 estimated that cocaine exports were worth three times the value of all other Bolivian exports and Peruvian exports as much from the drug as from copper.

Political instability is created by the vicious power of the cartels to protect themselves. In Colombia they are credited with the murder of 1,500 policemen, 157 judges, 108 politicians, a minister of justice, and an attorney general.

WAR ON THE STREETS

Learning young in crack city

By Quentin Cowdry, Home Affairs Correspondent

WHEN Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, recently visited St. Louis, Missouri, he was able to sit in on a primary-school anti-drugs session — aimed, astonishingly, at six-year-olds — in which a genial police officer, standard-issue revolver at his hip, told a fairy story about a forest populated by good and bad dragons, the latter having a taste, he explained, for mind-bending substances.

St. Louis, a gritty survivor of a city in America's Midwest, does not have the country's worst drugs problem but, with its inhabitants now consuming well over 70,000oz of cocaine a year, it is doing its best to make up for lost time.

The city's 400,000 inhabitants are now under siege by crack, the cocaine refinement which is proving the most devastatingly seductive narcotic to emerge in America since the war.

Cocaine addiction has risen by 843 per cent since 1986, children as young as 10 are dealing, and local jails are overcrowded with criminals convicted of drug-related offences.

Obviously, street cocaine prices have fallen by two-thirds since 1987, when crack dealers first started infiltrating

the poorer suburbs. A gram (there are 28 grams to an ounce) now sells for \$40 (\$24), little more than the New York price, providing the clearest sign that the city's efforts to beat the demon are failing.

The battle is further undermining a city already suffering industrial decline. It is having, to pour millions of dollars each year into bolstering an over-burdened criminal justice system and treating narcotics misusers.

About 500 youths under 17 are likely to be prosecuted this year, most for either using or selling drugs. In 1987 only 56 juveniles were prosecuted.

The state's response has been tough. Wire-tapping has been authorized, the death penalty introduced for drug-related murders and cordons sanitaires thrown around schools, which incur a minimum 10-year jail term for dealers who breach them.

Driving bans on those convicted of drugs offences are among the moves designed to increase the risk to middle-class drug-users, who are thought to give the habit a spurious respectability. The courts may also be empowered to revoke the licences of lawyers, nurses, teachers and other "professionals" who use drugs.

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OFFICIAL

Ferry disaster sets off outcry over convenience flags

From Christopher Mosey, Stockholm

SHOCK over the Scandinavian Star ferry disaster quickly turned to anger yesterday with reports of poor safety precautions and linguistic confusion among the ship's international crew, bringing new demands for passenger vessels flying flags of convenience to be banned in Nordic waters.

Mr Georg Andersson, Sweden's Minister of Transport and Communications, said: "The Swedish Government has already said no to flags of convenience."

However, he said, he must await the result of the joint Swedish, Norwegian and Danish commission of inquiry investigating the disaster before he would support moves to ban all such vessels from Swedish waters.

"It is clear there must have been lapses in safety on board," he said. "We shall investigate carefully and if measures to tighten control are needed, we shall certainly take them."

Mr Anders Lindstrom, chairman of the Swedish Seaman's Union, promised to step up his organization's long-standing campaign against vessels flying flags of convenience.

"Such a catastrophe shouldn't be allowed to happen," he said. "Flags of convenience are a means of getting round provision of proper safety measures. They are a

threat to both crews and passengers."

He said a catastrophe on the scale of that which engulfed the Scandinavian Star could never have happened on a Swedish vessel, which would have included trained fire-fighters among its personnel, with the crew subject to regular fire drill.

Several Swedish newspapers in leading articles yesterday called for a ban on ships flying flags of convenience on ferry routes in the Nordic area.

Göteborgs Posten, daily newspaper for Gothenburg, Sweden's principal port, referred to the reported breakdown in communication between members of the Scandinavian Star's crew and said: "Safety regulations should ensure that the crew can provide help in the most effective way."

"This is not possible if it comprises poorly paid, badly educated workers from different countries. If the authorities cannot guarantee safety demands then once more it becomes necessary to question the practice of ships flying flags of convenience."

Sydsvenska Dagbladet, leading daily newspaper for southern Sweden, said the Seaman's Union had been proved right by the disaster in its persistent warnings against ships flying flags of convenience. However, Dagens

Nyheter, the nation's leading daily newspaper, said that, while the union's warnings may have been correct, the debate as to whether to ban ships flying flags of convenience should not obscure a real need to review fire-safety regulations on board all ferries in the Nordic area.

It said these should be brought up to the levels insisted on for hotels.

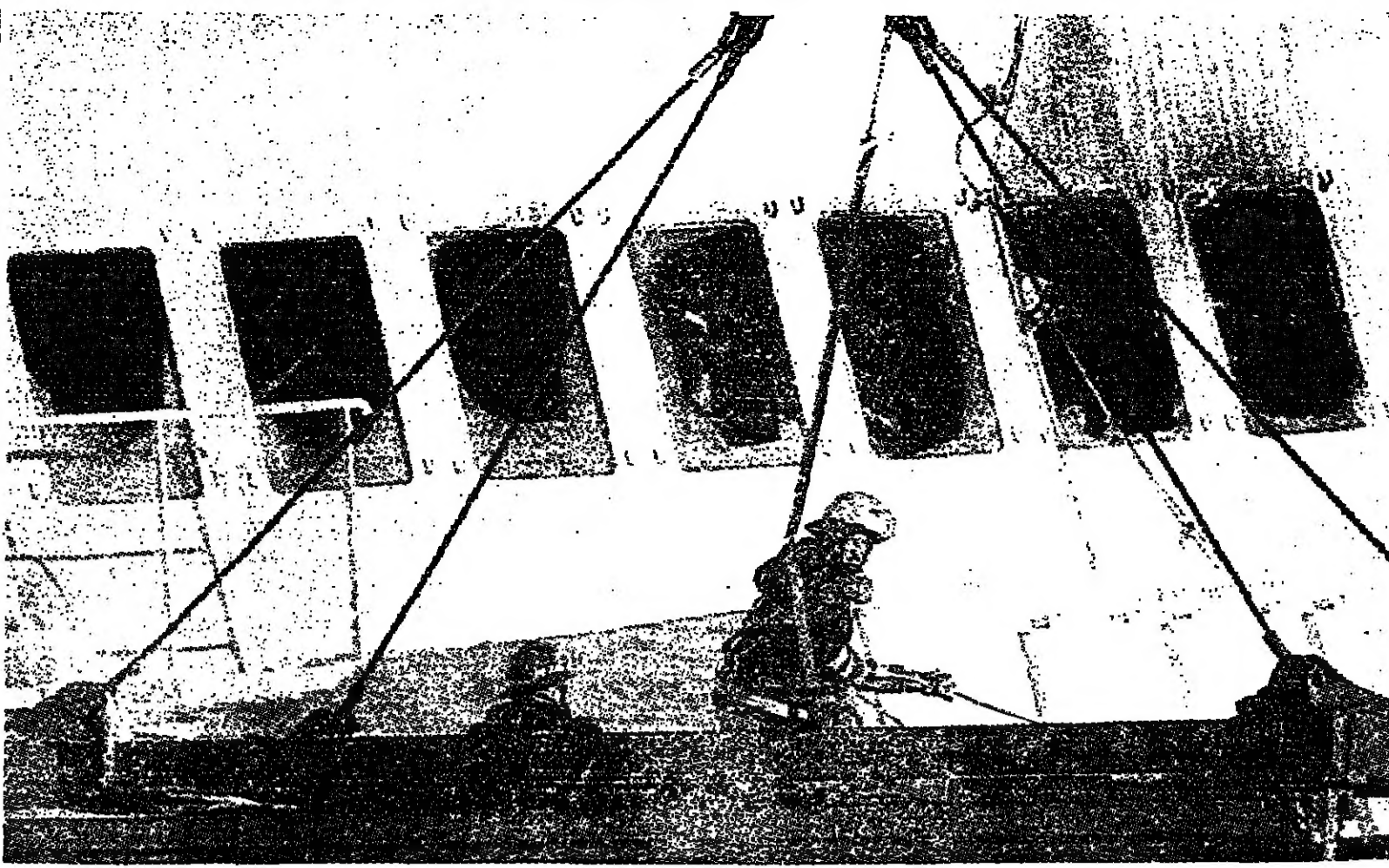
Meanwhile new indications of poor safety and inefficiency on board the Scandinavian Star have emerged.

Gothenburg Radio, which picked up initial distress calls from the vessel, said these had given the wrong position, thus delaying rescue attempts.

Mr Bo Landstrom, the Swedish fire fighter who led the initial attempt to put out the blaze after being ferried to the boat by helicopter, said his work had been hampered by the fact that the Scandinavian Star's pumps had failed and the emergency water system was leaking.

Reports too by passengers that the ship's fire alarm failed to go off appeared to be confirmed by Mr Joao Nobre, a Portuguese crew member aged 22.

He described how he ran from cabin to cabin banging on doors and calling out to passengers to man the lifeboats. "For many of them it was too late," he said.



Firemen being lowered yesterday on a platform alongside the Scandinavian Star. They had to step over bodies in the blackened interior

Perilous battle to beat the fire ends in success

From David Sæstad, Lysekil, Sweden

UNDER a sky of ice blue yesterday afternoon, a pair of dolphins played with careless grace around the listing hull wedged against the main dock of this small Swedish port.

Their activities provided a momentary, incongruous distraction for the fireman taking air on the charred deck of the Scandinavian Star.

Then it was time for the men to return inside the choking cauldron. The "smoke-divers", as this particular breed of firemen is known in Sweden, still had work to do.

Clothed head to foot in protective clothing, with oxygen gear on their backs, the teams of 20 men have been operating from the moment the ill-fated ferry was towed here on Saturday evening.

Conditions inside the vessel were terrible: temperatures near the centre of the fire on the ship's Caribbean deck, situated just below the bridge, were estimated at more than 300C yesterday morning. It only began to drop in the afternoon as the firemen began to get the upper hand.

Mr Olle Wennström, a fire engineer at the Stockholm headquarters of the brigade, led his men repeatedly into the blackened interior of the ship. They had to crawl and grope along corridors through the all-embracing smoke to reach the centre of the fire.

"They are having to step over bodies in the corridors, and when they get within 20 metres of the fire they can only stay there for a minute or two because of the intense heat," he said. One smoke-diver,

from Gothenburg, succumbed to the heat and fire and was taken to hospital early yesterday morning. He was later released.

"The heat was so intense that I have seen the firemen coming out with their clothes boiling," said Dr Tom Brokopp, a member of the medical crisis team. He was at the quayside all day yesterday.

The problems for the firefighters heightened yesterday morning when the vessel developed a list to starboard. This was a result of the gallons of water pumped into the hold by tugs that hoisted the vessel down all day.

Fears that the vessel would roll over temporarily stopped the efforts of the firemen, and they were evacuated.

Later, plastic explosive was used to blow holes in the side of the ship to enable the water to gush out. Meanwhile, the fire spread still further and by the time the smoke-divers returned, they had to battle to recover much of the territory they had won earlier.

Mr Conny Englund, the local fire chief in charge of the operation, said last night that a 20-strong team was still at work inside the vessel, and its renewed efforts have finally appeared to have won the battle to bring the fire under control.

"Apart from a small fire still burning we think now that it is mainly steam coming from the ship," he said.

It was a far improved situation from that at dawn yesterday when the smoke billowing from the Scandinavian Star could be seen more than 20 miles away.

Stricken vessel is fully insured

Oslo

INSURERS of the stricken Scandinavian Star ferry are bracing themselves for huge claims after the fire, described as one of the North Sea's worst peacetime disasters.

"There have been many accusations against the ship owners, but nobody can accuse them of having insufficient insurance," Mr Ivar Kleivan, legal director at Norway's Skuld Assuranceforening, one of the insurers, said. "If the demands were, for example, a billion Norwegian crowns (£91.5 million), they would be covered," he said.

The vessel's hull is insured in Denmark for £14.5 million. Other claims, including those for the victims, will be handled by Skuld in Norway under a policy with no limit on payouts. Compensation to victims is, however, usually limited by international conventions.

Accusations that the fire was started deliberately would only affect payouts to anyone found guilty of arson. Mr Kleivan said in a telephone interview.

Mr Fleming Nielsen, deputy-director of Fjerde Søeforsikringselskab, the Danish firm which insures the hull, told the Copenhagen daily Politiken yesterday: "We still don't have a full idea of the extent of the damage but, at the worst, we will probably have to pay the maximum insurance (of £14.5 million)."

Mr Kleivan said Da-No Line, the ship's operators, took out its insurance policy from April 1, the date the ferry started plying the route between Oslo and Frederikshavn.

(Reuters)

Survivors tell of chaos as smoke engulfed ship

By Our Foreign Staff

SURVIVORS of the ferry disaster spoke of chaos on board as flames and smoke swirled through the ship early on Saturday.

Mrs Eli Kvale Nielsen, a Norwegian woman, was one of many survivors who said that they never heard a fire alarm. "It was all chaos and no organization. We had to find the life vests ourselves. It was clear that the crew was not trained for an emergency," she said.

"It took a very long time to get the lifeboats out. Then nobody knew how to get them down. We were hanging there, with smoke coming out strongly."

Other survivors, huddling under grey blankets after being brought ashore by rescue ships, claimed that emergency procedures on the Scandinavian Star were virtually nonexistent.

A Norwegian passenger, Mr Arne Solbrenne, said he saw a pile of burning clothes in the corridor outside his cabin. One Danish passenger said the frantic scramble to survive by several hundred people was like "something out of a horrible disaster movie."

One woman who escaped the blaze said: "I smelled smoke, so I got up and came out. There was no organized leadership on deck... the lifeboats were full of people."

Another survivor said: "Many had been drinking and we didn't get any information over the loudspeakers before they ordered us to the lifeboats."

Most passengers were Norwegians and Danes, including children and pensioners, taking an early Easter break on the Bahamas-registered car ferry.

Mr Ole Hansen, managing director of the Danish company VR Da-No Ferries, which owns the ferry, insisted on Danish radio that the vessel was safe, but refused to discuss reports that alarms had not worked and that the crew was untrained.

Scandinavian news reports quoted survivors as saying the fire began on a low deck, beneath the ferry's water line and near the stern. Thick smoke spread upwards, through the deck where passengers' cars were parked and through a higher deck where a

casino and bars are located.

More than 300 people, many pulling on just sweaters and jeans and discarding other possessions, scrambled into lifeboats to be picked up by rescue ships and helicopters. Survivors went to ports in Sweden, Norway and Denmark.

Mrs Elisabeth Steiro of Norway said: "There was smoke everywhere in the corridor, and you could hardly see anything. I remembered where the staircase was and ran in that direction. I tried several exits but failed to get through."

"Finally I came to a place where the smoke was thinner and managed to reach the lifeboats. There was only one thought in my head - to get out. I'm lucky to be alive."

Mr Arvid Rusten, a Norwegian travelling with five children to a table tennis tournament in Denmark, said: "We heard a crackling, and we saw a lot of smoke and fire." Like other survivors, he said he heard no alarms.

He said they threw on clothes and rushed to the lifeboats from the lower decks. The six were picked up after 45 minutes in a lifeboat by a Panamanian ship, given blankets and taken to the Norwegian town of Sandefjord.

On shore, survivors and rescuers told of panic and confusion, alarms that did not work, and seemingly untrained crew members who could not speak the same language. Many of the crew were Portuguese and Filipinos.

"We went on board a death trap," a Norwegian survivor, Mrs Greta Holen, said. "It was pure luck that I survived."

Passengers trying to reach the open decks lost their way in narrow, smoke-filled corridors and succumbed. Some died in their cabins.

A Danish passenger, Mr Leo Odeland, an Oslo resident travelling with his wife and two daughters, said: "We woke up in the middle of the night. I heard a noise outside. I went out of the cabin and saw thick, black smoke."

"Nothing happened when I pushed the fire alarm. I hadn't heard the alarm go off. At another place where there was supposed to be an alarm, nothing was there."

British experts keen to learn from blaze

By Michael Horsnell

MARINE accident experts are maintaining a watching brief on the Danish ferry disaster to determine the lessons which might be learned by British shipping before reporting to the Department of Transport.

The department's marine accident investigation branch, alerted as soon as the Scandinavian Star caught fire, wants to know the cause of the fire and whether it might have been better contained before the huge loss of life.

Fire experts accept that a similar fire could occur in the Channel and reviews of emergency procedures to deal with such an eventuality are being automatically undertaken.

A spokesman for the Department of Transport said yesterday: "Everyone will want to learn lessons from what has happened despite the fact it was not a British ship, nor in British waters."

"The branch is closely following the course of events and will be interested to find out what the cause was and the

instruction which might be taken from it."

The marine accident investigation branch only last week concluded a £1 million two-year inquiry into ferry safety following the Herald of Free Enterprise disaster in 1987. The research programme backed internationally agreed stability recommendations for new ferries threatened with capsizing but the weekend disaster has prompted a further look into fire safety at sea.

Britain is in the vanguard of marine fire techniques and, amongst constant advances, is soon to issue revolutionary immersion suit fire-fighting clothing which has been privately developed for firemen fighting a blaze at sea. It will be issued to Kent firemen, who are the acknowledged leaders in fire-fighting at sea.

Two years ago the International Maritime Organization, the London-based United Nations agency, began a review of ferry incidents. It found that despite progressive improvements engine rooms remain ships' most vulnerable point, accounting for nearly 38 per cent of fires worldwide aboard vessels of more than 500 tonnes.

The introduction of cat-flap-style "hose ports" within fire-safety passenger doors which do not have to be watertight has been under consideration as a means of limiting the spread of fire and smoke.

The Royal Institution of Naval Architects has found the most common cause of engine room fires to be the fracturing of a fuel line and the spillage of oil onto a hot surface.

Mr Jeremy Beech, chief officer of Kent Fire Brigade, which regularly tackles blazes

in the Channel with the RAF air-sea rescue unit at Manston, said: "There will always be a risk of fire at sea and modern ships are better equipped to deal with it. But any ship fire is serious."

"Despite modern techniques to protect engine rooms we have had to drop men on board by helicopter because the fire containment system failed to contain a fire. Our marine fire-fighting arrangements have never been better."

Trade union opposition within the fire brigades to fighting blazes at sea has been dropped and advanced training given to specialist teams.

It is generally when British hoists foreign flags that on-board safety standards allegedly tend to drop.

Registered under "flags of convenience", some British roll-on roll-off ferries have caused concern over safety because they do not have to comply with British safety standards. Last year four such ferries, three owned by Sealink and one by Sally Lines, were found to have been re-registered in the Bahamas.

Shipping experts and the ship officers' union NUMAST expressed concern at the move and predicted it could lead to poorer safety.

Foreign vessels are governed by safety standards drawn up by the International Maritime Organization but these lag behind the new regulations introduced by the Department of Transport in the wake of the Zeebrugge disaster.

Mr Beech said: "I have found flags of convenience vessels are difficult. There can be problems at sea over the language spoken and over levels of safety training."

Toll of tragedy in past decade

SOME of the world's worst ferry disasters over the last 10 years were:

January 1981: A passenger and cargo ship sank in the river Jari, Brazil, after hitting a sandbank, killing 270.

June 1983: 317 died in a ferry fire on the Nile.

May 1986: The ferry Samia capsized in Bangladesh killing 600.

November 1986: A ferry sank off Haiti and 200 drowned.

March 1987: The Herald of Free Enterprise capsized at Zeebrugge with a loss of 193.

June 1987: More than 160 died when an overcrowded river ferry sank in India.

December 1987: An estimated 2,000 died in a fire aboard the Philippines ferry Dona Paz.

October 1988: A ferry capsized in the Meghna river estuary in Bangladesh and 200 died.

October 1988: The Dona Marilyn sank in a typhoon south of Manila and 300 drowned.

January 1990: The Chinese ferry Donggwa sank after a collision on the Yangtze, killing 113.

rammed by a cargo ship, killing 200.

January 1989: More than 80 died when a Guatemalan ferry sank in Amatique Bay.

September 1989: The Indonesian ferry Si Mawar Pate capsized north of Bali and more than 100 were drowned.

January 1990: At least 100 drowned after a collision between a ferry and a cargo boat near Dhaka, Bangladesh.

January 1990: The Chinese ferry Donggwa sank after a collision on the Yangtze, killing 113.

(Reuters)

Troops out in force as Peru goes to the polls

Lima

TANKS rumbled down Lima's avenues and thousands of police were deployed to prevent guerrilla attacks during yesterday's presidential election pitting the son of Japanese immigrants against a world-renowned novelist.

About 300,000 police and troops were deployed throughout the country to respond quickly to attacks by Maoist Shining Path guerrillas, who have rejected the elections as a bourgeois farce.

Police in armoured personnel-carriers protected schools and government buildings from the guerrillas, who have waged a campaign of killings and bombings aimed at frightening Peruvians into boycotting the polls.

Lima's Channel Five television station reported that guerrillas assassinated Senator Julio Santamaría, the deputy prefect of northern Tocache province, and his brother, David, near the town of Tocache on Friday. The report could not immediately be confirmed.

Shining Path guerrillas also

bombed a market in the northern city of Huaraz on Saturday, injuring 14 people, including several children, police said.

In other violence, 18 armed and hooded Shining Path gunmen invaded a shantytown outside Lima on Saturday. Shooting "the people will judge, the fight continues", they tried to set fire to shacks. They were attacked by stone-throwing residents and arrested by police.

Final opinion polls showed a last-minute surge of support for Senator Alberto Fujimori, the mild-mannered son of Japanese immigrants who has no past political experience.

But, the polls suggested, he would still finish second to Senator Mario Vargas Llosa, the world-famous novelist standing for the centre-right, who also has never held public office. In any event, there will probably have to be a run-off election, since neither candidate looks able to win the 50 per cent of the vote required to achieve outright victory.

President García, whose Government has been plagued

by guerrilla violence and inflation, now running at 2,100 per cent a year, was barred by the Constitution from seeking re-election.

Señor Fujimori, aged 51, has benefited from voter apathy towards traditional parties to surge past Senator Luis Alva Castro, the ruling Aprista Party candidate, and Señor Alfonso Barrantes, the leading socialist.

Both Señor Alva Castro and Señor Barrantes had been strong candidates to join Señor Vargas Llosa in the run-off until Señor Fujimori's campaign took off last week. The local press has dubbed him "Tsunami", which is Japanese for tidal wave. He follows a broadly centre-right line, but is the only important candidate not to have issued a formal manifesto.

Peru's 10 million voters will also elect a new 240-member Congress and regional councils. With 28 parties and coalitions putting up candidates for deputies in Lima alone, no party is expected to win a clear majority in either house of Congress. (Reuters)



All-embracing candidate: A woman farmer hugging Señor Vargas Llosa on the campaign trail

Voters sombre as Greece tries again

From Philip Jacobson, Athens

GREECE'S long and dispiriting search for a viable government resumed yesterday when the country went to the polls for the third time since last June. With yet another hung parliament apparently on the cards, the mood of many voters was unusually sombre, although Athens echoed to the traditional sounds of blaring car horns and party slogans.

The release of an official report at the weekend underlining the extent of the economic crisis now confronting Greece might just have concentrated voters' minds on the need for change.

Its unsurprising conclusion is that, with inflation now running at about 17 per cent and the current accounts budget deficit reaching terrifying proportions - up 150 per cent last year - the only effective response by whatever government finally emerges must be an immediate austerity programme with real teeth in the shape of higher taxes, higher prices and sharp cuts in government spending. As it is,

the report noted, only aid from the European Community and the US is holding back disaster while the country falls steadily further behind the EC partners with whom it must participate in the next stage of economic integration in 1992.

Some observers believe that concern about the state of the economy could conceivably benefit the conservative New Democracy Party, if only because the worst damage was incurred during the turbulent nine years that Mr Andreas Papandrou's Pasok socialists held power. Yet Pasok loyalists seem prepared to forgive their 71-year-old leader anything, especially when he rouses them with fiery diatribes against the right.

Several hundred people turned out just to watch Mr Papandrou arriving to vote in his local school in Athens yesterday morning. The old battler accepted a Palm Sunday bouquet from the crowds, thrust a clenched fist into the air and strode off behind his handsome new wife, Dimitra, with a spring in his step.

Singapore bans Times reporter

Singapore - The Singapore Government yesterday barred MGG Pillai, a freelance correspondent of The Times, from entering the republic (Our Foreign Staff writes). He was put on a train leaving for Malaysia.

The authorities have been more active recently in restricting foreign correspondents who are likely to write critically about Singapore.

Schoolboy Aids campaigner dies

Indianapolis - Ryan White, a teenager with Aids who won the right to attend school after being barred by officials and parents who rejected reassurances that Aids cannot be spread through casual contact, died yesterday, aged 18.

White became a national spokesman for children with Aids, appearing at congressional hearings and fund-raising events. His story was told in a 1989 television film. (AP)

Tbilisi hopes for peaceful anniversary of massacre

From Nick Worrall, Tbilisi

THOUSANDS of scarlet carnations and tulips are strewn in the square in central Tbilisi where, a year ago today, 20 Georgians, 14 of them women aged between 16 and 70, were brutally killed by Soviet paratroopers wielding short spades and spraying poison gas from aerosol cans.

President Gorbachev sent a message to the Georgian people yesterday expressing "sincere sympathy to them and to the families of those killed as a result of the tragic events".

In stark contrast to last April's act of extreme repression, the Georgian Communist Party seems to have conceded the freedom of the city to the nationalist groups.

"Last April totally changed the situation in Georgia, and the people have been awakened by the massacre," Mr Zviad Gamsakhurdia, leader of the National Forum, the biggest of three rival nationalist groups, said.

"Now the people are all involved in the national movement. It is widespread; thousands more have joined us. They cannot fight against us now," he added.

Yesterday afternoon large photographs were being prepared of all 20 victims, 18 of whom were killed outright by the troops; the other two died of their wounds in hospital. More than 700 people were treated for injuries and some 3,000 have been treated for the after-effects of inhaling CN and CS gas, the use of which is supposedly illegal in the Soviet Union.

The troops, under Colonel-General Rodionov, were sent in by Moscow after Georgia's Communist leadership requested help to deal with rising civil disobedience.

The facts of how people were beaten with trenching tools and sprayed with gas are not in doubt, although General Rodionov tried last year to deny before the Soviet Parliament that anyone had

been killed. It was also weeks before the Army would admit that gas had been used. The delay in identifying it meant that victims were denied speedy appropriate treatment.

After the massacre, the first secretary of Georgia's Communist Party was replaced by Mr Givi Gumbaridze, the former local KGB chairman. Interviewed in his office high above the city, Mr Gumbaridze said: "It's a very sorrowful anniversary for us. It's a tragedy which will always remain in the memories of our people, a tragedy because so many completely innocent people died who loved their country."

The many Georgians now actively involved in the more than 100 political groups determined to win their country's liberation would probably scoff at such sentiments from the leader of the party which they blame for their oppression.

Since last April, however, under Mr Gumbaridze's chairmanship, the Georgian parliament has declared its own laws pre-eminent over Moscow's, decided that the incorporation of Georgia into the Soviet Union in 1921 was illegal, and removed the Communist Party's monopoly of power. Multi-party elections will be held for the first time in October.

Would he guarantee that, under his leadership, the events of Bloody Sunday could not be repeated? "I am deeply convinced that this is the case. I will always do everything so that a similar occurrence can never happen again in Georgia."

Mr Gumbaridze may be tested soon. On any given day, there are at least one or two marches, hunger strikes, demonstrations, rallies or street meetings in Tbilisi. In addition, the National Forum now plans a campaign of civil disobedience for the summer that Mr Gamsakhurdia believes will bring down the government.



Women in the village of Veresegyhaza, near the Hungarian capital, lining up to cast their votes yesterday

Chernobyl families to be helped

From Michael Binyan, Moscow

PRESIDENT Gorbachev, responding to a hunger strike by radiation victims and appeals from mothers of children living in areas contaminated during the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, ordered local authorities at the weekend to provide proper medical treatment and better leisure facilities.

He told the Soviet Trade Union Council to ensure that children from contaminated areas in Belorussia and the Ukraine spend their summer holidays at medical centres and rest homes.

His intervention came after a growing outcry over the refusal by local authorities either to move families suffering contamination or provide more medical help.

The Government has promised to step up treatment also for those who took part in the Chernobyl clean-up.

Bonn bought freedom for 33,000 political prisoners

From Ian Murray, Bonn

SINCE 1964 West Germany has bought the freedom of 33,000 East German political prisoners at an average price of DM95,847 (£34,900), according to one of the few men in close touch with this human trade.

In an interview which appears today in *Der Spiegel*, Herr Wolfgang Vogel, the East Berlin lawyer who negotiated dozens of East-West spy swaps, describes how he acted as the go-between for freeing thousands of dissidents locked up by the communist regime.

The trade was always officially denied by both governments, although there was never any question that it went on. Herr Vogel throws some light on how the figures never appeared in any of the government statistics.

He says that, for the most part, prisoners were exchanged not for money but for hard currency vouchers used

for buying oranges, oil, industrial diamonds and consumer goods in short supply. This was a device particularly used at Christmas to obtain more exotic goods to put in the shops. Tropical fruits were recently high on the list.

The East Germans, he said, used to negotiate the exchange of the vouchers for goods through Herr Alexander Schalk-Goldkowitz, the former Foreign Ministry state secretary, charged with looking after the country's foreign assets, who fled to the West last December and who has refused to return to East Berlin to answer accusations of dishonesty.

Herr Vogel, a Catholic who was trusted by Herr Erich Honecker, the deposed East German leader, and by successive West German governments, said that his East Berlin office waiting room was always full with people trying

to obtain his help to free prisoners or to organize family reunions. He calculates that down the years he has managed to arrange for 250,000 East Germans to go West as well as playing his part in the prisoner releases and being involved in 150 bilateral and multilateral spy swaps. He arranged many famous exchanges, including that of Mr Gary Powers, the U2 pilot, and Mr Nathan Sharansky, the Soviet Jewish prisoner of conscience.

According to him, the first political prisoners were exchanged in August 1964, and the last ones in August 1987, just before Herr Honecker visited Bonn.

Herr Vogel admits in the interview that he worked alongside the Stasi secret police, but says this was essential to do his work. "My goal was simply to help the prisoners," he said.

Elections in East Europe

Poor turnout in second round of Hungary poll

From Ernest Beck, Budapest

RAIN, cold and grey skies kept most Hungarians away from the polls yesterday in the second round of voting for a new multi-party parliament which will take the country towards a free market economy and European integration after 45 years of Communist rule.

As most polls closed, voter turnout was estimated at about 33 per cent, down from 64 per cent in the first round two weeks ago. Polling stations were ordered to stay open an extra two hours.

The apathy was blamed on the inclement weather as well as public displeasure with party squabbles and a negative campaign conducted by the two first-round leaders — the centre-right Democratic Forum and its liberal rival, the Alliance of Free Democrats.

Voting was heaviest in Budapest and the western county of Győr-Sopron, reaching almost 50 per cent.

Because of the complex voting system and the more than 30 parties contesting the first ballot, only one-third of the 386 seats were decided, making a run-off necessary.

No opinion polls were allowed to be published in the last week of the campaign and exit polls are banned. But indications are that the contest between the two parties will be close.

The Forum hopes to form a strong conservative group with the rural-based Smallholders party and the Christian Democrats, while the Free Democrats are linked with the radical League of Young Democrats.

There are fears that a close result without a clear majority for either group will leave the country without a viable government at a time of growing economic uncertainty and possible social unrest.

Dr József Antall, president of the Forum and the likely choice for prime minister, has ruled out the possibility of a grand coalition with the Free Democrats unless Hungary is faced with what he calls "a catastrophic situation".

Mr János Kis, acting president of the Free Democrats,

however, reiterated yesterday his party's willingness to join any broad-based coalition.

The Socialist party, the reform wing of the former Communist party which received 10 per cent of the vote in the first round, has been excluded from coalition speculation.

● LJUBLJANA: All Slovene conscripts will be withdrawn from the Yugoslav Army if the Democratic Opposition coalition (Demos) won Slovenia's first free elections since before the war. Mr Jozef Prucknik, its leader, said yesterday (Richard Bassett writes).

More than a million Slovenes voted for a new president yesterday. The Democratic Opposition coalition intends to introduce a new Slovene currency, a new national anthem and its own flag.

Asked if Belgrade would not regard this as a provocation, Mr Prucknik replied: "Everything we are doing — holding these elections even — is regarded as a provocation by the Serbs."

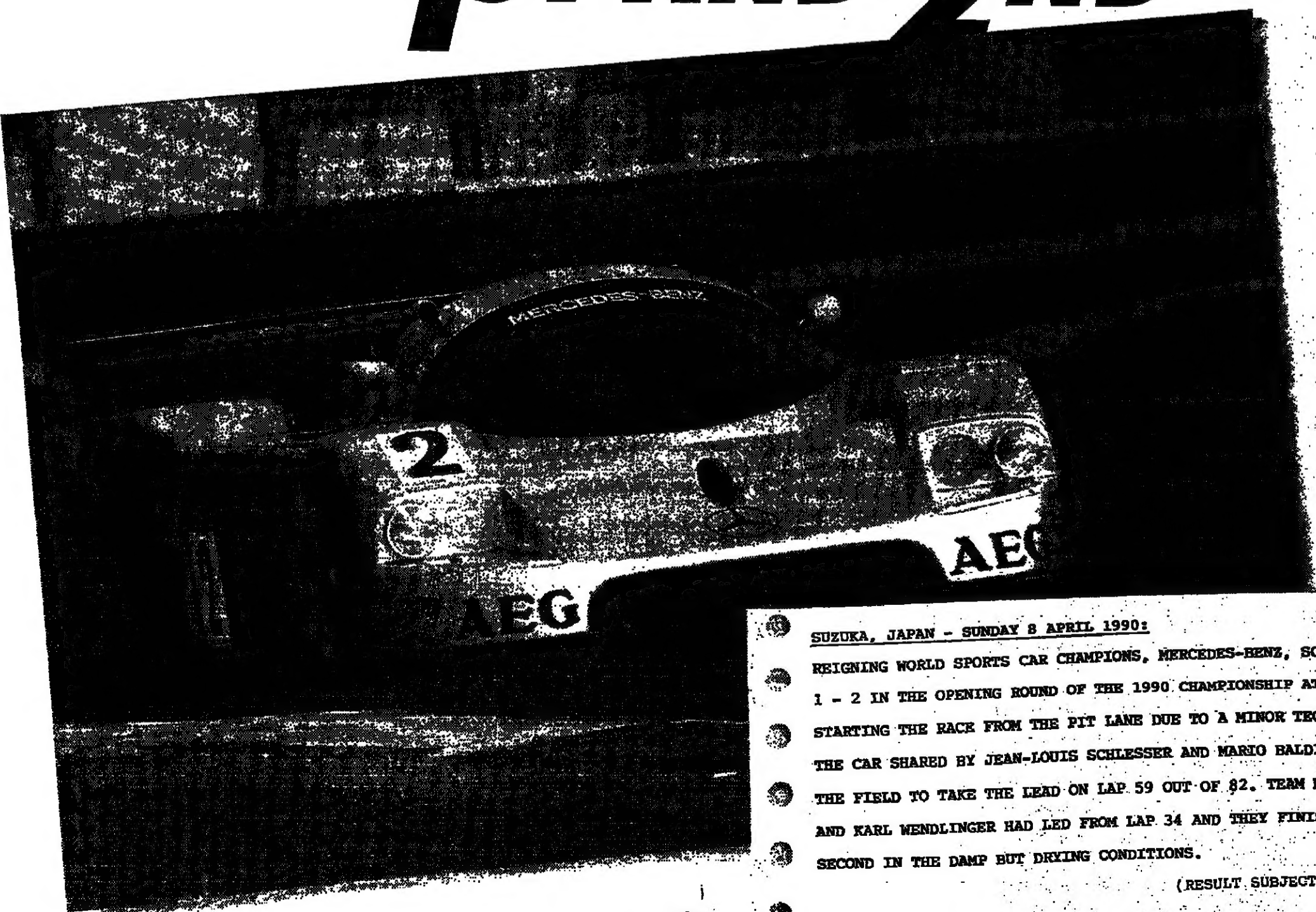
He denied that there were parallels with Lithuania in withdrawing Slovene recruits from the Yugoslav Army. "Lithuania is part of a great superpower. Slovenia is in Central Europe. I do not take the possibility seriously that Belgrade might use force. The Yugoslav Army is not made up of idiots," he said.

Mr Prucknik is convinced that Slovenia must go it alone. "Federal status for Slovenia is out of the question now," he said. A new constitution will be drawn up within weeks if Demos wins. "Belgrade will have no legal authority here," he added.

● BUCHAREST: In brilliant spring sunshine up to seven thousand people yesterday acclaimed the announcement that Mr Ion Iliescu, Romania's interim President, will stand for this May's presidential elections (Tim Judah writes).

The announcement followed a weekend conference of Mr Iliescu's party, the National Salvation Front.

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ENGINEERED LIKE NO OTHER CAR IN THE WORLD



SUZUKA, JAPAN - SUNDAY 8 APRIL 1990:

- REIGNING WORLD SPORTS CAR CHAMPIONS, MERCEDES-BENZ, SCORED A DOMINANT 1 - 2 IN THE OPENING ROUND OF THE 1990 CHAMPIONSHIP AT SUZUKA. AFTER STARTING THE RACE FROM THE PIT LANE DUE TO A MINOR TECHNICAL PROBLEM, THE CAR SHARED BY JEAN-LOUIS SCHLESSER AND MARIO BALDI CLIMBED THROUGH THE FIELD TO TAKE THE LEAD ON LAP 59 OUT OF 82. TEAM MATES JOCHEN MASS AND KARL WENDLINGER HAD LED FROM LAP 34 AND THEY FINISHED A STRONG SECOND IN THE DAMP BUT DRYING CONDITIONS.

(RESULT SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION)

APRIL 1990

Tourists evacuated from Nepal as crisis talks stall

By Christopher Thomas and Ian Sweet in Kathmandu and Andrew McEwen in London

TOURISTS trapped by a curfew after violent pro-democracy protests in Kathmandu were being evacuated from Nepal yesterday while talks between the Government and opposition appeared to have stalled.

Diplomats and tourists contacted by telephone in Kathmandu said the Government was arranging special flights yesterday to take foreign tourists out of the capital, where there were reports of at least 50 deaths in Friday's demonstration near the royal palace.

A Western diplomat said he saw about 250 foreigners at the airport trying to get on flights, but people were not packing. "Everyone's just sort of relieved to be alive," he said over the telephone. "Everyone's gratified that things have stabilized."

A group of 15 British schoolchildren and three teachers were among dozens of tourists stranded when the airport was closed on Friday.

The children, aged 16 and 17 from Brynston School, Blandford, Dorset, had been due to leave at 10.30pm on Friday. They returned to their hotel while shooting continued in several parts of the city. However, they were not caught up in the demonstrations.

Whitehall sources and the school said it was not known whether they managed to leave yesterday, but they were in no danger.

British diplomats escorted tourists to the airport, and a number of them were on the first aircraft to leave. Two more special flights carrying tourists from many countries were expected to take off later. The death toll in Friday's shooting, in which troops opened fire on demonstrators

as they approached the royal palace, remained confused with varying reports. The toll is put officially at 10, with 170 injured, although unofficial sources say that at least 25, and possibly more than 50, died.

One Briton died after being shot in the neck while filming clashes between police and demonstrators. Another Briton has had his leg amputated below the knee. A Dutch tourist is seriously hurt with a spinal injury caused by gunfire.

The curfew imposed after the killings was relaxed for one hour yesterday morning so that people could buy food.

With other national strikes planned for this week and the symbolic burning of the Nepal constitution today by the National Congress party, it seems unlikely that the Government will lift the curfew and risk another demonstration and possible riot.

The opening session of talks between the Government of King Birendra and the opposition was held in a tense atmosphere as the rain-soaked streets of Kathmandu and other towns remained empty under the shoot-on-sight curfew.

The Government announced that it had appointed a commission of inquiry into the killings by police when a crowd variously estimated at

between 100,000 and 200,000 marched to the royal palace.

Large numbers of police and troops patrolled the rubble-strewn streets, with shops and houses badly damaged by brick-throwing mobs.

Britain has advised against travelling to Nepal as did the Bush Administration, which said it deplored Friday's killings. It urged the Government to open talks with opposition leaders.

The Government did not issue a statement after yesterday's opening session but Mr Ganesh Man Singh, leader of the banned Nepali Congress party, said: "Nothing came of it."

Tourists are still trickling into the mountain kingdom, many of them ignorant of the tumultuous events that have shaken the Government and almost certainly started a move towards changing the partyless *panchayat* system under which the King is the supreme authority.

Badly dented buses with smashed windows — the scars of Friday's rioting — ferried the tourists into city hotels. Soldiers escorted the vehicles, which were stopped at checkpoints.

The pro-democracy movement now seems unstoppable having previously emerged and died away several times in this illiterate, politically inactive country where bad communications have hampered attempts at mass action.

Violence continued in several towns yesterday and security forces responded with force. None of the events is being reported freely in newspapers, most of which have long supported the *panchayat* system. Most newspapers that oppose it have either suspended publication or bowed to censorship.



Biko spirit rallies blacks opposed to ANC dialogue

From Gavin Bell, Capetown, western Cape

THE spirit of Steve Biko has returned to haunt the African National Congress in its bid for power in a post-apartheid society.

While ANC leaders discuss strategy for forthcoming negotiations with the South African Government, rival black nationalists are inciting opposition to the dialogue with the succinct slogan "One settler, one bullet".

Some 13 years after Biko's murder by security police, disciples of his black consciousness movement are flocking to the banner of African nationalism raised by the Pan Africanist Congress.

Judging by the relatively

small crowd which attended a PAC rally in Guguletu township in the western Cape yesterday, its popular appeal remains limited. Only about 1,000 gathered in a sports stadium to hear PAC leaders attacking the ANC for "selling out" to the white minority government, but what they lacked in numbers they made up for in enthusiasm and militancy.

Urging them to cry freedom, Mr Zeph Mothopeng, the PAC president, said history had shown that nationalism was the most effective method of fighting colonialism. "We must free ourselves, we must get back our land and we are not going to tell anyone what we are going to do with it. We must have it back first before we decide how to handle the situation," he said.

Other speakers said they were prepared to negotiate with the Government, but only after it had abolished apartheid totally and conceded that "group rights" had no place in a non-racial democracy.

The crowd listened patiently to explanations of Africanist tenets, but reserved their cheers for blistering attacks on the ANC. The speeches were perhaps best summed up by a popular slogan: "Victory, not compromise".

Mr Mothopeng, a former teacher, aged 76, is emerging from years in the political wilderness as a potential rival to Mr Nelson Mandela, the ANC vice-president. He led a break-away from the ANC and formed the PAC in 1959. The organization was banned, and its members persecuted to the point where it ceased to exist in any tangible form in South Africa.

The Pan Africanist Movement, created as a cover late last year, officially became the

internal wing of the organization after it was subsumed in February. It is now assiduously recruiting followers throughout the country, among them militant youths drawn from the ANC and the remnants of Biko's black consciousness movement. Officials claim a membership of half a million.

According to Mr Khelha Shubane, a researcher at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, they may become a force to be reckoned with if they can unify their disparate external leadership and strengthen their structures in South Africa. "They are potentially very strong, with a large latent support that can still be tapped. Their message is very appealing to the landless majority," he says.

Unlike the ANC, which has attracted support from all race groups, the PAC ranks are almost exclusively black. However, several of its younger and most dynamic leaders are Coloured (mixed race), and it is gaining converts among Islamic fundamentalists in the western Cape.

So far no one is personally attacking Mr Mandela, preferring to appeal to him to abandon "surrender" negotiations with the Government and return to the Pan-Africanist fold.

Evidently he has received the message. In concert with the Azanian People's Organization (AZAPO), another descendant of Biko's movement, Mr Mandela is trying to arrange a consultative conference of all black nationalist leaders. The scheme was hatched at a meeting in Soweto at the weekend with Mr Jerry Mosala, the AZAPO president, who promptly scheduled talks with the PAC.

But unity seems distant while Africanists preparing independently for the future.

Obscenity charges for gallery director

From Charles Bremner, New York

A GRAND jury in Cincinnati has charged the director of the city's main art gallery with obscenity after he resisted a prosecutor's request to cancel an exhibition by Robert Mapplethorpe, the late photographer, which contains explicit homosexual images.

The action has intensified a political row across the country over freedom of expression and the extent to which the Government should subsidize the arts. Since the Corcoran Gallery in Washington cancelled its show before its opening late last summer, the Mapplethorpe collection has emerged as a travelling barometer for the shift in America's social climate.

The Corcoran director, who anticipated adverse public reaction after arranging the show, was denounced by the arts community and praised by Senator Jesse Helms and conservative groups around the country. Earlier, the exhibit, which is subsidized by the National Endowment for the Arts, had been shown for months in New York to much critical praise and no public criticism.

Some 2,000 demonstrators chanted "Gestapo go home" on Saturday as police and sheriff's officers marched into the Cincinnati museum and ordered out more than 500 patrons who had packed into the gallery for the opening day.

The officers videotaped the exhibition for two hours before visitors were allowed back. "Stop pornography, stop perversion," shouted one crowd which supported the police. "Tiananmen Square, fascists," the larger rally shouted back. "Be calm, be patient."

"I know how you feel," Mr Dennis Barrie, the director, said to patrons as the police hustled them out.

Mr Barrie was charged with pandering, obscenity and using minors in pornography, offences which carry a possible six-month prison term. Naked children are shown in two of the pictures. The warrant was issued after a grand jury toured the exhibit incognito during a preview last Friday that was attended by thousands.

Mr Barrie has become a hero among America's artistic world for standing up against an onslaught from local authorities and national groups for promoting the exhibit in a town that embodies all the traits of increasingly conservative middle America.

Poindexter's fate rests on decision by Bush

From Peter Stothard, US Editor, Washington

PRESIDENT Bush, who has hitherto side-stepped the consequences of the Iran-Contra affair, will soon have to look the issue squarely in the face. He is likely to have to decide whether to pardon Admiral John Poindexter, his predecessor's National Security Adviser, who on Saturday was found guilty on five counts of conspiracy, obstruction and lying.

Mr Poindexter is the highest-ranking White House official to be convicted of criminal offences since 1975, when H. Raldeman and John D. Ehrlichman were found guilty of covering up the break-in at the Democratic headquarters in the Watergate Hotel.

Six lesser figures, including Oliver North, have been convicted or have pleaded guilty for their parts in the White House attempt to circumvent congressional restrictions on sending arms to the Contras guerrillas in Nicaragua. But Poindexter is the only one who stands to receive a prison term.

The maximum punishment available to Judge Harold Greene is 25 years in jail and fines of \$1.25 million (£780,000). Although it is unlikely that the outcome, to be announced on June 11, will be anywhere near the maximum, any prison sentence will give the White House pause for thought.

President Bush let it be known yesterday that he will make no comment on the convictions.

The charge list against Poindexter at the Washington Federal Courthouse was as significant for what it did not include as for what it did. The three-year investigation by Mr Lawrence Walsh, the special prosecutor, originally resulted in an accusation of conspiracy to defraud the Government. But the first count for which he was actually found guilty was conspiracy to obstruct Congress.

The charge of being an

individual common or garden law-breaker had to be narrowed to the charge of deceiving the Government on behalf of the executive branch. Despite the legal considerations involved, the pursuance of the Iran-Contra affair has always been primarily political. And it is on President Bush's desk that the final political act of the drama will be played.

Mr Poindexter is a somewhat colourless figure whose now familiar jaunty hats and moustache belie his management consultant's mind and blinkered military drive. The prosecution alleged that as President Reagan's National Security Adviser he destroyed a document in late 1986 which directly linked Mr Reagan to the complex links of arms sales and hostage swaps. He did so, it was said, because to do otherwise would have left his presidency "in a shambles".

Mr Poindexter is, in many ways, a natural fall-guy, trained by military discipline to accept responsibility and protect higher authority. His initial statements reflected this. The buck stopped with him, he told congressional hearings in 1987. At the trial, however, his lawyers attempted to argue that he had acted on Mr Reagan's instructions. His personal standing clearly suffered by his unwillingness to testify on his own account. As he left the court with his wife on Saturday, Mrs Poindexter told reporters that there were "no second thoughts" on that score.

According to the combative chief prosecuting counsel, Mr Daniel Webb, the conspiracy was designed "to protect the political viability of Ronald Reagan". Such protection, according to Mr Webb, was in Poindexter's "self-interest" — a judgement which goes to the heart of arguments which have raged in Washington almost as long as the city itself, and which reaches their zenith during the Watergate debates. How much privilege does the President have to act independently of Congress and how much power to protect those who carry out his will?

The Poindexter verdicts — if upheld on appeal — mark a sharp difference from the position of many conservatives, led by Mr Reagan, that no crime had been committed by senior officials during the Iran-Contra episodes. The trial produced virtually no new evidence about the case, and nothing about the role of Mr Reagan, even though the former president submitted to the unprecedented call to give lengthy videotaped testimony. The White House successfully invoked "executive privilege" to protect private presidential documents and diaries.

Further and less important cases in the Iran-Contra affair are still scheduled for later this year. Chief among them is that of Mr Thomas Clines, a former CIA agent, charged with lying about foreign bank accounts in connection with the supply of arms to Iran. The case of Mr Joseph Fernandez, accused of helping North, is stalled. The Justice Department is refusing the prosecution access to documents.

Poindexter: Found guilty on five counts

Lee to head Hong Kong liberals

From Jonathan Brande, Hong Kong

MR MARTIN Lee, Hong Kong's most outspoken liberal politician, was yesterday elected chairman of the colony's newest political party, the United Democrats of Hong Kong.

The pro-democracy party elected its executive committee and published its manifesto after several months of negotiations between leading Hong Kong liberals. It is expected to become the main

opposition to the conservative-leaning Hong Kong Government.

The party has promised to field strong political candidates for Hong Kong's first direct elections in 1991, from which it said it would emerge as a "major political force".

The manifesto commits the party to support the implementation of the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration, which preserves Hong

Kong's present social and economic system for 50 years after the handover to China.

Almost a third of the party's 216 founding members are from the colony's leading liberal lobby groups, Meeting Point, The Hong Kong Affairs Society and the Association for Democracy and People's Livelihood.

Next year 18 seats of the 60-seat legislature will be up for direct election.

Peres puts last touches to new coalition

From Richard Owen, Jerusalem

MR SHIMON Peres, the Israeli Labour Party leader, was involved in intricate backstage moves at the weekend to ensure a wafer-thin majority for a left-wing coalition committed to peace talks with the Palestinians.

Shas, the Orthodox religious party which last month brought down the Likud-Labour coalition by abstaining, said yesterday that it would again abstain in Wednesday's vote in the Knesset (Parliament), a move which would further boost the new Labour government and might even enable Shas ministers to join it at a later date.

Leading Palestinian moderates said the formation of a Peres administration on Wednesday would mark a "serious first step" towards a peace settlement in the occupied West Bank and Gaza and the ending of the *intifada*.

At the same time more than 100,000 Israelis demonstrated in Tel Aviv on Saturday to demand changes to a "chronically unstable" electoral system which means that either of the two main parties, Labour and Likud, must "go begging" to all the powerful minority parties for support.

The rally, one of the biggest public protests ever seen in Israel, was in part a show of strength by secular Israelis in response to the growing self-assertion by the Orthodox religious parties.

It was also, however, an expression of revulsion at the increasingly blatant manoeuvring by both Labour and Likud as they attempt to break the 60-60 deadlock in the Knesset by wooing small factions and individuals.

The Israeli newspaper *Ha-zofeh* yesterday denounced such horse-trading as an attempt to break the "political tie" by using "bribery and fraud".

The present voting system is based on proportional representation, whereas many Israelis want either a Westminster-style constituency system or the direct election of prime ministers.

Apparently undeterred, Likud and Labour continued at the weekend to offer potential allies tempting political rewards. Mr Peres confirmed that he was able to form a majority of 61 because of the defection from Likud of Mr Avraham Shariar, a former minister sacked by Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Likud leader and present Prime Minister, in 1988.

In a statement Mr Shariar accused Mr Shamir and his Herut faction within Likud of ruling through "tyrannical dictatorship" at the expense of the liberal faction to which Mr Shariar belongs. He added that Mr Shamir had committed "inhuman and vile offences against me and my family", but did not elaborate.

Likud officials in turn accused Mr Shariar of "turning traitor" in pursuit of the perks of high office. Likud said it would seek "ut for tat" defections to Likud from Labour's right wing, and would try to undermine Labour's alliance with Agudat Israel, one of the main religious parties.

PARIS: Mr Peres has said the foreign ministers of Egypt, Israel and the United States will meet soon in Cairo as part of Middle East peace initiatives (AFP reports). In an interview published by the *Journal du Dimanche* yesterday, Mr Peres also reaffirmed his intention to launch as quickly as possible a dialogue with Palestinians.

RABAT: Islamic states yesterday appealed urgently to the Soviet Union, the US and the European Community for help in halting the Soviet Jewish exodus to Israel (Reuters reports).

King Hassan of Morocco, who will visit the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and the Vatican to press for action, said: "Our patience has reached the limit."

Iraq woos tourists with easy visas and plethora of things past

From Christopher Walker, Cairo

UNDETERRED by its burgeoning image as one of the world's less desirable tyrannies, Iraq has launched a campaign to boost foreign tourism.

The decision to open doors and grant easily accessible visas to foreigners follows a similar move announced last year by Iran and has been taken for the same reason: the ceasefire, however, fragile, in the eight-year Gulf War.

Intrepid travellers who add Baghdad or Tehran to their itineraries should be warned that in both cities close attention by the internal security services is guaranteed. But in Iraq, unlike Iran, alcohol is available and Western-style fashions for women will raise few eyebrows.

Announcing the campaign, Mr

Nour al-Din Safi, head of the state-owned Iraqi Airways, said that government moves will include the granting of visas on arrival at Baghdad airport to foreign visitors travelling on package tours instead of the need to acquire them abroad first. There will also be free access to all archaeological and historic sites and other tourist attractions around the country.

As part of the drive, he said that travel agents from around the world, including representatives of the influential American Association of Travel Agents, had been invited to tour the country and to sign contracts to bring tourists during 1990.

As in Iran, the Iraqi campaign to woo foreign visitors is motivated by the desperate need for hard currency to finance a costly post-war reconstruction programme.

Its external debts are estimated

at around \$70 billion (£44 billion). Mr Safi claimed that by using lures such as the ancient Mesopotamian cities of Nineveh and Babylon (at present undergoing a controversial facelift) partially designed, like much else in Iraq, to promote the greater glory of President Saddam Hussein, it was hoped to receive up to 200,000 tourists this year.

President Saddam, said by some Middle East watchers to have scarcely disguised monarchial ambitions, is believed to regard himself as a fitting inheritor of Nebuchadnezzar's mantle.

He has offered a £1 million reward, as yet unclaimed, to any engineer who can bring the famous Hanging Gardens back to life in the traditional fashion.

"There is something for everyone here," Mr Safi told reporters. "We believe that the glamour of ancient cities like Babylon and

Nimroud will be a big attraction. After all, Iraq is the cradle of civilisation."

The history of what is now Iraq dates back at least 6,000 years and the Garden of Eden was, according to some accounts, located at Al-Qurnah, the spot where the mighty Euphrates and Tigris rivers converge to form the contested Shatt al-Arab waterway that flows into the Gulf.

The tourist drive is a revival of plans shelved when the war with Iran broke out in September, 1980. It embraces an extension of worldwide routes for Iraqi Airways, currently involved in negotiations with the France-based Airbus Industrie consortium and the US Boeing Corporation for an extensive refurbishment of its ageing fleet.

Despite Iraq's tarnished human rights record, tourists have already

begun to trickle back since the Gulf War ceasefire was negotiated in August, 1988.

The Government in Baghdad has no official figures for 1989 but, according to Mr Qassam al-Shalchi, head of the Iraqi Travel Agents Association, they included "promising numbers of people from Britain, Japan, Spain, South Korea and West Germany".

Some 2,000 Britons live in Iraq, and although most have tried to shrug off the war of words begun by the execution of Farzad Bazofi, the London-based Iranian journalist, British tourists will have to wear a barrage of anti-British venom in the state-owned Iraqi media.

Recent targets have ranged from the royal family — including claims that Prince Andrew shirked his military duty — to Sir Francis Bacon, the venerable 17th-century

philosopher. The April 1 edition of *Al-Thawra*, one of President Saddam's favourite mouthpieces, denounced the British thinker for making unfavourable comparisons between the Islamic Koran and the Jewish Talmud. Tourists are advised to stick to more up-to-date reading material.

Diplomatic move: President Mubarak has launched a diplomatic initiative to reduce the current hostility between Iraq and the West which has raised tensions in the Middle East to dangerous levels not seen for many years.

Yesterday the Egyptian leader returned from an unannounced whistle-stop tour to Iraq and Jordan.

According to Arab sources, he conveyed a message from President Bush saying that Iraq was not the target of any Western campaign.



Israeli protesters, part of a 100,000-strong weekend rally in central Tel Aviv, calling for electoral reforms

Jets kill 24

Nairobi — At least 24 civilians were killed and 75 wounded when Ethiopian Air Force jets bombed the rebel-held Red Sea port of Massawa, rebel radio, monitored here, reported. (Reuters)

Hostage plan

Beirut — Abu Nidal's Palestinian guerrilla group claims that plans to free at least three French and Belgian hostages in Lebanon are going ahead "according to plan". (AFP)

Asylum refused

Seoul — South Korea has rejected a request for political asylum by a Soviet seaman who said he wanted to go to America, police said. (Reuters)

TIMES DIARY

SHERIDAN MORLEY

Despite the RSC's economic troubles at the Barbican, another theatre is to go up less than a mile away. It will be built, provided planning permission is granted next month, as part of the £1 billion Spitalfields redevelopment scheme near Liverpool Street station, and will include a permanent stage for Manchester's Royal Exchange, arguably the country's leading regional theatre. The plan, says artistic director Braham Murray, is to create a replica of the Exchange's bubble-auditorium within new walls, and all being well (which these things seldom are), it will open in late 1992. Levitt Bernstein, who built the original Manchester Exchange stage, will build Spitalfields to the same design, and shows will be able to transfer intact from one city to the other. With no hope of subsidy, Murray's company will be tenants of the development group, obliged to recoup their costs at the box-office.

"We have learnt from RSC experience at the Barbican," says Murray. "We will never originate new work at Spitalfields. It will only ever be a transfer house. Manchester is very conscious of having lost *The Guardian* to London, and we certainly don't intend that it should lose us as well. On the other hand, we played some successful seasons at the old Roundhouse, and our actors and directors deserve to have their work seen in the capital."

Social historians and mere gossips will find the new *Dictionary of National Biography* a volume of rich and rare fascination. For it insists on full and real names. First and subjects alike: were you aware that Bernard Levin's first name is Henry, or that Caryl Chessman was really Doris Caroline Abrahams? Secondly, writers seem to have very different solutions to



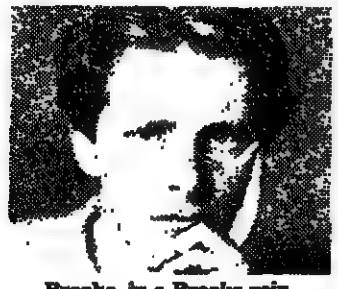
Doris: rebuke from on high

the problem of how frank they should be about the recently deceased. We are told, for instance, only that Anton Dolin was "unmarried"; Anthony Blunt, however, "relied the atmosphere of secrecy and intrigue surrounding his own homosexuality". We are informed of Enid Bagnold's early affair with Frank Harris, but not of Sir Michael Redgrave's bisexuality. Then again, Kingsley Amis tells us that Sir John Betjeman was "partial to a sufficiency of wine"; Keith Baxter, writer of Richard Burton's drinking as "addictive"; while Diana Doris's entry recalls her denunciation by an Archbishop of Canterbury, no less, as "a wayward hussy". Eric Ambler is immensely discreet about James Mason's extra-marital arrangements; of Beverley Nichols, however, we learn that his "unconventional and indiscreet sex life caused consternation in the War Office."

© I am still worrying about the arts lady from Channel 4 who rang me to ask if I knew where she could find a soundtrack excerpt from Marcel Marceau's last London season in order to trail his next one.

New York, in the agonies of a post-Trump, anti-affluence mood, is the setting of an intriguing publishing row which could well travel across the Atlantic. Several members of the writers' organization PEN have objected that its annual fund-raising banquets are turning it into "a toy of the wealthy". E.L. Doctorow has resigned on the grounds that PEN should not "cozy up" to the super-rich, nor get involved in any kind of sponsorship, no matter how good the cause.

In the 20 years since Mel Brooks devised an unforgettable musical called *Springtime for Hitler*, the choice of subjects for big-band shows has grown still more improbable: how soon after *King* (Martin Luther, at the Piccadilly later this month)



Brooks, in a Brooks vein

shall we get a Kennedy musical with the full Dallas sniper finale? Soon enough, if Sondheim's *Assassins* is anything to go by. We can also look forward this summer to what is being billed as *Rupert Brooke - the Musical* by Mike Read. I only hope the first half closes with Jeffrey Archer singing "And Is There Honey Still For Tea?" in a set resembling his present (and once Brooks's) Grantham home.

The events at Strangeways, Dartmoor, Cardiff and elsewhere during the last week are salutary reminders that prisons are inherently both volatile and regressive.

The dreadful violence at Strangeways has produced a parallel theatre in the adjacent streets and on television screens. Comments from a retired administrator, an American prison guru, union officials and politicians have not always been measured to lessen the chances of further trouble.

The calm stance of the local Prison Officers' Association leader, for example, contrasts with the volatile remark by one national official that the system as a whole is near to collapse. Every care should be taken not to inflame the situation further.

Staff and inmates have a common interest in good order, and this is in large part achieved through a myriad of informal arrangements and understandings. The effective prison manager discourages unhealthy collective patterns. He tries to promote a constructive regime based on mutual respect and one that engenders (in the words of one prison governor) "hope and optimism". To create and maintain this type of institutional ethos is an immensely complex

Andrew Rutherford offers suggestions to the Strangeways inquiry

Treat prisoners like adults

that characterized many effective managers, both within prisons and at the higher echelons, a generation ago has been replaced by an ethos that regards prisoners to be little more than the objects of a management process.

In all the thought that has been given to reorganizing the British system, prisoners are rarely consulted - as they are elsewhere - about even the most rudimentary aspects of the regime. When their aspirations and anxieties are ignored, it is surprising that they resort to violence.

Expenditure on prisons in this country over recent years has, proportionately, been at a much higher level than spending in most other areas of the public sector. Staffing levels have greatly improved. But there has been little improvement - recent research in fact points to deterioration - in the quality of regimes. Despite record expenditure, prisoners spend much more time in their cells.

In recent years there has been a powerful reluctance to explore the basis of authority in our prisons. Indeed it seems that much of the humanistic idealism

The prison department of the Home Office appears to have been consumed with efforts to expand the system (between 1980-95 by 55 per cent), by improving disastrous industrial relations through "fresh start" and with a reorganization with which it is proceeding against the better judgement of prison governors.

Over the longer term, the opportunity exists for Lord Justice Woolf, who will head the Strangeways inquiry, to connect the prison system with a new mood that is shaping penal policy. It is ironic that these disturbances have taken place against a substantial and sustained decline in prison numbers.

Contrary to official predictions of further increases, the prison population has fallen by more than 2,000 since 1983.

There are encouraging signs of the beginning of a shift in attitudes towards imprisonment among prosecutors, judges and other practitioners, echoing the

note struck in the February White Paper, *Crime, Justice and Protecting the Public*, that prisons "can be an expensive way of making bad people worse". There is a new awareness of the extent to which this country's penal policy has become out of step with that in much of Europe, and the Government's proposals to engender a greater parsimony in the use of custody are receiving great support.

Practitioners, having grasped that they hold the key to change, are showing signs of being newly empowered to set the direction and pace of that change. This pattern of practice leading policy is evident in West Germany, where the prison population has fallen by 20 per cent since the early 1980s.

Political leadership was displayed a few years earlier with legislation by the government in Bonn establishing basic rights for all prisoners. This statutory framework goes far beyond the Prison Rules in Britain and

contrasts with the miserable U-turn away from drawing up minimum standards that was taken after Lord Whitelaw's departure from the Home Office.

The leadership required by the prison department, governors and staff must be reflected at the highest political level. Eighty years ago a courageous and pioneering Home Secretary, Winston Churchill, charted the way forward to a very substantially reduced prison system. After announcing a series of steps to cut prison numbers immediately, he had this to say:

"We must not allow optimism or hope or benevolence in these matters to carry us too far. We must not forget that when every material improvement has been effected in prisons, when the temperature has been rightly adjusted, when the proper food to maintain health and strength has been given, when the doctors, chaplains and prison visitors have come and gone, the convict stands deprived of everything that a free man calls life. We must not forget that all these improvements, which are sometimes salutes to our consciences, do not change that position."

The author is chairman of the Howard League for Penal Reform.

The spy writers who came in for a killing

Bernard Levin, revealing himself as a key link in the espionage chain, unmasks the most spurious literary genre the world has seen



denouncing their rivals as ignorant charlatans.

Since most of them are ignorant charlatans, there is a certain rough justice about the business, or at least there would be if it were not for them keeping us up half the night with the appalling din they make. There are not half a dozen books in the vast library they now comprise which are worth reading (Andrew Boyle's *The Climate of Treason* is one, but, significantly, it was written very early in the business, before the thimble-riggers got into the game).

It may be safely assumed that everyone in the business of espionage or counter-espionage is mad. Some go into the business because they are mad, and the rest go mad fairly soon after they join, but there is no known exception to the rule. It follows, then, that whether, say, Sir Roger Hollis was or was not a

homosexual, and indeed whether he was or was not a traitor, is irrelevant; the only thing necessary to be borne in mind is that he was a lunatic.

This is not just a fancy of my own. It is impossible for anyone in the business of spying to stay sane (let alone recover his sanity if he was mad to start with), because the work is done in a world which is made of nothing but unreality. If you shut up a man in a cell made entirely of walls, ceiling, floor - of trick mirrors, he will, quite certainly, go off his head. The analogy is exact; if you are in the spy business, half your time is spent in endeavouring to discover whether your colleagues are working for the enemy. And they are spending half their time trying to find out whether you are. Meanwhile, of course, the enemy is doing exactly the same as we are; obviously, the other

side is every bit as mad as ours.

But that does not exhaust the fundamental lunacy on which the world of "spooks" rests. Suppose that agent X3GZ5 (familiarly known as Boris) has supplied you, through the usual channels, with some sensational material, which might, handled properly, alter the entire balance of power. A high-level meeting is arranged, the purpose being to put into action the knowledge just gained. But nothing happens, because before any decision can be taken, an insuperable objection is raised; how do we know that X3GZ5 (or Boris) is really on our side, and not a double agent? We do not know; indeed, we cannot know. It is therefore impossible to evaluate the material he has supplied, and, *a fortiori*, to act upon it.

I am not playing games; what I have described is precisely what happens in spy circles. Again and again, in the past 50 or 60 years, crucial information has been passed by agents at the risk of their lives, and ignored.

Sometimes it ought to be. For all the hysteria about the "atom-bomb" (Fuchs, Nunn May, Pontecorvo, Rosenberg), I do not believe they hastened the Soviet acquisition of the atom-bomb by more than a fortnight. (Those who insist that, on the contrary, they gave Stalin anything up to a year, are the spooks themselves, defending themselves from the fully justified charge of irrelevance. And, in any case, what was Stalin supposed to have done with the year that he could not have done without it?)

I will go further. I do not believe that more than half a dozen espionage coups have actually altered, in a significant manner, the course of modern history. I will go further still; if all the spying and counter-spying - British, American, French, German, Russian, the lot - of the period leading up to the Second World War, of the war itself, and of the decades of the Cold War that followed, had never taken place, the war would not have been avoided or fought in any other way, the years which followed would not have been any more or less tense and dangerous, and the world today would be no different.

That, of course, is not a claim which will commend itself to the secret services of this country or of any other; face the truth, and Obello's occupation is gone. So, of course, is the spurious, dropical industry which has grown up to accommodate the mendacious memoirs of the spooks themselves and the fictional accounts of their doings by the outsiders.

Lord Rothschild was not the Fifth Man. Nor was he the 27th. Nor was I his "control". Nor was Professor Lindemann mad. Nor is there any sign that the torrent of spy books is likely to cease, or even to flow less copiously. Nor will any of the new ones be any better or more truthful than the previous thousands.

John Grigg urges new thinking on compulsory retirement

Expertise expelled

The announced departure next year of the Archbishop of Canterbury and of Dr Graham Leonard, Bishop of London, has drawn attention to the fact that 70 is the retiring age for Church of England bishops. For Roman Catholic bishops in this country it is 75, while for the Pope there is no retiring age at all. (No pope has left the office, except by dying, since 1415).

In modern times, the Roman Catholic church has been well served by the absence of an age limit for the papacy. Many would agree that the two outstanding popes during the past century were Leo XIII and John XXIII. The first was elected at the age of 68 and reigned for 25 years. The second was 77 when elected and 81 when he died, after a short but fruitful reign.

These ecclesiastical instances point to a much larger question. Are strict, arbitrary retiring ages sensible in any circumstances? In particular, is the British state justified in making its diplomats and civil servants retire at the relatively early age of 60?

During the period since the last war the expectation of life in Britain has risen by about 10 years. Men can now expect to live, on average, well into their seventies, and women into their late seventies. In relation to this longer life expectancy, 60 must be regarded as an early age for people to be forced to retire from their chosen sphere of work.

Two arguments are used to justify the practice. After 60, it is said, people may still be physically quite robust, but their mental resilience and receptiveness to new ideas are necessarily diminished. By 60 their best work is sure to have been done, and if they are allowed to stay on beyond 60 they can only become increasingly obstructive and ossified, while - this is the other argument - blocking the promotion of younger people better qualified for the top jobs.

The first argument may conceivably be true as a general rule, but if so the exceptions to it are so numerous and so striking that to apply it indiscriminately must be absurd. If it were applied to politicians we should have to take the view that Churchill, who was 64 when he first became prime minister in 1940, was unfit to lead the country. There would also have to be retrospective disqualification of de Gaulle, who returned to power in 1958 at the age of 69, and of Adenauer, who was 73 when he became chancellor of the German Federal Republic in 1949.

Talent is clearly not subject to predictable degeneration with the passage of time (though of course everybody cracks up eventually). In music there have been great performers of advanced years, such as Rubinstein and Horowitz, and great composers, such as Verdi and Richard Strauss. Among painters Michelangelo and Titian are

obvious cases in point, and among authors Tolstoy, for one, kept going into old age.

At a more humdrum level, in the world of business there is all the flexibility about retirement that is lacking in the public service. As a result, it is not uncommon to find people running large businesses long past the age when they would be superannuated as civil servants or diplomats. One example among many is Lord King, chairman of British Airways. *Who's Who* does not give his age, but the fact that he married for the first time in 1941 suggests that he is in his seventies.

Moreover, there is a familiar progression of former ambassadors to important positions in the City and in industry. Whatever the state may think of their capabilities after the age of 60, they seem to be thoroughly marketable in the real marketplace. Sir Frank Cooper, for example, who was the top civil servant in Northern Ireland and at the Ministry of Defence, is now, aged 67, chairman of the Guinness named High Integrity Systems Ltd, as well as a director of FKI Babcock. Sir Nicholas Henderson, since retiring finally from the Diplomatic Service, has been chairman of the Channel Tunnel Group and a director of Hambros.

Henderson became, incidentally, a rare case of recall to duty after the age of retirement, when he was appointed to the Washington embassy in 1979. By universal consent his mission there was a triumphant success.

In diplomacy, above all, experience is vital. The British system not only ends the careers of our diplomats too soon, but keeps them for too short a time in each posting, moving them on just when they are really getting to know a place and to have acquired the necessary range of contacts.

To the argument that the present retirement rule encourages the young by removing obstacles to promotion, the answer is that movement within the public service should be as flexible as the rule for leaving it. Instead of being kept waiting, exceptional people should be appointed ambassadors or permanent secretaries at about the age of 40, just as it should be possible for the right people to stay in the public service, giving the country the benefit of their knowledge and experience, at least until the age of 70.

In France public officials in home or foreign service have the option of retiring at 60, but are not obliged to go until they are 65. This is a more enlightened system than ours, though still rather too restrictive. The principle of an optional retiring age is excellent, since it provides an opportunity for weeding the service. The flowers should be encouraged to bloom for as long as possible.

Reply, pray, to this open letter

INVITED in the 1920s to comment on a proposed code-breaking operation, Henry Stimson, later to become American Secretary of State, was forthright in his reaction. "Gentlemen," he said, "do not read each other's mail." Today it seems that gentlemen have changed their habits.

I used to believe that Mr John Biffen MP and his Tory constituency party chairman in Oswestry were vigorous pcn-pals, and that postmen in Oswestry must be horribly indiscreet. But as new events in our national life brought charity accounts of Mr Biffen's opinion about them, expressed in letters to the chairman which were reported without mention of the reply - indeed, whether there had been a reply - I came to see that the chairman was not the point. He was just a letterbox.

Then there is Tam Dalyell, who for years has been writing to seek

information on the position, speed and direction (before sinking) of the Belgrano, and the precise duties and behaviour of every player in the Westland drama. Nobody gives him proper replies, but he keeps on publishing his letters.

Or take the letters from Nicholas Ridley, Trade and Industry Secretary, to his Labour shadow, Gordon Brown, inquiring as to Opposition policy and sprinkled with phrases like "perhaps you could clarify", "I cannot find mention" or "as I am sure you will wish to explain...". They have been press-released. But Mr Ridley has not awaited Mr Brown's reply - though you

might think he would wish to publish both together.

It occurs to me that not only are gentlemen most certainly invited to read this mail, but that Mr Brown's doing so himself is a matter of indifference to Mr Ridley. The aim of the Ridley correspondence seems to be to let Mr Ridley's cry come unto heaven (and unto us) in a form which invites inquisitive attention and discourages response.

Yet there must be some danger (if slight) that Mr Brown, Mr Biffen's chairman or those whom Mr Dalyell torments might actually have a crashing response and find some way of publicizing it. This would cause the plan to



MATTHEW PARRIS

backfire. It is a weakness in the tactic.

I have eliminated it. "Dear God, You will recall my previous inquiries, asking you to explain a number of your policies,

clarify your actions, and expand on the obscure manifesto hints which so far are all you have offered. I have to date received no reply. Can I remind you of the questions to which answers are urgently awaited?"

First, the underlying ideology. You have never explained original sin. This is causing considerable distress, yet the necessity has not been properly argued through. Your junior spokesmen's attempts to justify these theoretical underpinnings have been unsatisfactory.

Secondly, why all the secrecy? Why is your administration conducted cloak-and-dagger? Why do you move in a mysterious way? Is

there a hidden agenda? How about setting an example in "open government" at the highest level?

"We are entitled, I think, to your explanation for Aids, the greenhouse effect and the hole in the ozone layer. Many historical incidents have never been satisfactorily cleared up. Was the First World War really 'just a blip'? I also have in mind the plagues of locusts, frogs and boils. How fast was Lot's wife travelling, in what direction, and what were her precise co-ordinates, when you turned her to salt?"

Much has been made of your policy review, updating the Old Testament with the Gospels and presenting what was claimed as a

'new, caring face' of religion. But has your thinking moved on at all on the questions of pork, shellfish, homosexuality, divorce and women priests? What attempt has been made to cost your policies? To keep out evil, would you consider a pact with Allah? (I cannot believe that you are one and the same). And when will you withdraw the party whip from the Reverend Ian Paisley?

"Finally, please clarify the behaviour of some of your senior spokesmen. Dr Runcie - most recently - is 'retiring to spend more time with his family', while the Bishop of Durham seems to be discreetly distancing himself from your policies."

To these and many other questions, I respectfully suggest, the people of this planet are entitled to an answer."

I hope I'm not struck down by the second post.



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-782 5000

DIPLOMATIC OPPORTUNITY

In the twilight of the superpower duopoly, the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary each have a rendezvous this week with, respectively, the Presidents of the United States and the Soviet Union. The coherence of British foreign policy towards Eastern Europe will be scrutinized when Mr Hurd arrives in Moscow today. Mrs Thatcher will face an equally difficult task when she meets Mr Bush in Bermuda on Friday. Both she and Mr Hurd will carry with them the unaccustomed baggage of severe unpopularity back home and an image of a government still stuck in the dying embers of the Cold War.

Britain's relationship with the United States has recently been dogged by Mrs Thatcher's scepticism over the implications of German reunification. Mr Bush needs to maintain the closest rapport with West Germany's Chancellor Kohl, at least until after December's election. If forced to choose between Herr Kohl and Mrs Thatcher, he would lose little sleep over neglecting the British "special relationship".

Mrs Thatcher has, not surprisingly, stuck to her guns. She quite simply does not agree with the conclusion which the Germans and the French are drawing from the rush to German reunification: that European political union is the only way to "anchor" Germany in the West. For the moment, the reasoning behind this policy has convinced the White House. It has novelty, potency and offers a helpful message to Congressional lobbyists eager to withdraw American commitments from Europe. A powerful single Euro-power should keep those staggering Eastern states in some kind of order, without too much American help. Mr Bush has no particular need for "Iron Ladies".

Mrs Thatcher has long said that all this is dangerously simplistic. The unification of Germany has huge implications for the Balkanising Eastern states. The destabilization of the Soviet Union under Mr Gorbachev casts shadow as well as light over East/West diplomacy. And Western European unity has nothing whatever to do with the case. Mrs Thatcher has not just the wisdom of experience on her side in this. She remains a free-thinking spirit in foreign affairs. Mr Bush should listen. As for Mr Hurd, he will inevitably expect to

raise Lithuanian independence, a delicate subject which his German or French counterparts would be likely to avoid. Germany has bigger fish to fry, and France wishes to avoid imperilling its relations with Germany. Mr Hurd will also doubtless convey Britain's version of that most sensitive diplomatic minutiae: trying to bolster Gorbachev's position in the Kremlin while not overtly approving of some of his less reputable policies towards dissenting parts of his empire. He should make clear that the Soviet army's present tactics make overt disapproval likely before long.

The symmetry of the agendas at both meetings shows how far America and the Soviet Union remain the crucial powers in Europe's future. The scaling down of their forces in Central Europe means that neither will have as big a stake in the years to come. This means that British diplomacy must pay more attention to governments on the mainland whose allegiance to one or other superpower was hitherto taken for granted. Greater independence for them means more complexity; more opportunity, possibly more danger.

From the abyss into which Europe periodically collapsed before the middle of this century, the monstrous phenomenon of superpower balance of nuclear terror emerged. Europe appeared to disqualify itself as the principal theatre of world politics. New possibilities and new possibilities now open. Balancing the powers of Europe will now be a combination of old-fashioned military and diplomatic geometry mixed with the requirements of nuclear deterrence.

The 1990s offer the prospect of a Eurocentric renaissance. With the Soviet empire shrinking and America possibly withdrawing into itself, the fragmentary economic superpower which passes for the Pacific rim will confront an equally fragmentary economic superpower built round greater Germany. The Soviet Union seems grudgingly to have accepted this. America is gracefully seeking to do the same.

Britain's diplomacy has the opportunity to reassert itself more vigorously than at any time since the last world war. How ironic if Mrs Thatcher were to forfeit the prestige she can still bring to this opportunity — all for the sake of local government finance.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

In America, where freedom of expression is enshrined in the First Amendment, the right to free speech is vigorously protected and revered. In Britain, the right to free expression is nowhere to be found in statute law and the public tends to be apathetic in its defence. In his introduction to today's Justice report on Freedom of Expression and the Law, W.F. Deedes points out that "It is when public indifference on the subject prevails, that the liberties of the majority are most at risk."

That is why there was no public outcry when newspapers and television companies were required last week to hand over photographs and film of the Trafalgar Square riot to the police. Nor did the public take to the streets when a journalist, William Goodwin, was required by the House of Lords to reveal the source of information relayed to him confidentially. Yet both decisions endanger freedom of expression, and so affect the public as much as the news organizations themselves.

The news media exist to serve their readers, viewers and listeners — some but not all to do so at a profit. At the risk of sounding pompous, it must be said that their freedom to report public events faithfully is essential to the proper functioning of a democracy. Only when accurate information is freely available to voters can they make sensible and independent political judgements. For this to be sustained, the reporting of news events must be independent of the authorities.

If news organizations are forced to hand over material to the police, the events and people they are observing will treat them not as independent witnesses but as potential police agents. Their property, persons and work will be endangered. Any editor must ponder withholding material that might assist in the solving of a serious crime such as a murder. But

that is a different matter from simply acting as a police longstop. There is a wider use to the community in the media standing aloof from the conflicts of society.

The threat to confidentiality of sources, as illustrated in the Goodwin case, poses a similar problem. Some sources are happy to be quoted; others, for understandable reasons, are not. For example, an employee discovering fraud in his company may think it in the public interest that it comes to light; he may also lose his job if his identity is revealed. The public surely is best served by the information coming to light, even if the source has to remain confidential.

Section 10 of the Contempt of Court Act is supposed to protect this confidentiality, "unless it is established to the satisfaction of the court that disclosure is necessary in the interests of justice or national security or for the prevention of disorder or crime". Yet this section has been eroded so much in recent court judgments that protection of sources is now by no means guaranteed.

Freedom of expression cannot be limitless. As the European Convention on Human Rights admits, there must be constraints on the grounds of, for instance, national security, the protection of reputation or the prevention of crime. But the freedom must be held up as a fundamental principle, to be restricted only when absolutely necessary. And the restrictions must be proportionate to the dangers they seek to minimize.

Freedom of expression in Britain has so far been seen merely as the residual freedom to impart information and ideas if it is not restricted by law. It ought to be more than that. Adopting the European Convention into British law would enshrine the fundamental principle, and give judges the yardstick they need to measure the necessity and scale of any restrictions on that principle.

MEA MINIMA CULPA

Iron certainties in public life suddenly seem less fashionable than they were, and not only in Eastern Europe. In the past week the Governor of the Bank of England, Sir Geoffrey Howe and the Governor of Strangeways Jail have all been putting their hand up and owning that something called a mistake may have been made in the otherwise calm certainty of their lives. (The passive voice is usually favoured for these sessions in the public confessional: the mistake somehow made itself, unaided by human hand.)

Are we experiencing some sort of intellectual greenhouse effect? Have they all been reading Confucius? It has always been true that by owning you have been in the wrong, you are asserting a new and greater wisdom than you previously possessed. That is not a line that normally commends itself to politicians and for a conviction politician it would be inherently absurd. The *locus classicus* was Mr John Foster Dulles, American Secretary of State in the 1950s. Asked whether he had ever been wrong he conceded that he had, once, many years before. "Of course", he added quickly, "it turned out that I had been right. But I was wrong to have thought that I was wrong."

Because politics is about accommodation, unspoken acknowledgement of error has always been a requirement of the job. It is more than 300 years since the Marquis of Halifax defined "this innocent word 'trimmer'". Mr Kinnoch's attempts in recent years to make the Labour party appear electable do no more than offer a contemporary, respectable example of it. The expression "we have always made our position on this crystal clear" is widely accepted as meaning its precise opposite.

Improvisation plays a much larger part in politics than most practitioners care to admit. Ministers standing today amid the ruins of the poll tax — a mistake far too huge for any of them yet to admit it publicly — are glimpsing an old truth, which is that we often find out what is right only by finding out what is not. But then the man who never made a mistake never made a discovery. Politicians who make discoveries in this way usually discover they must trim at high speed. Putting a finger on the fast forward button calls for good nerves and a fair degree of impertinence. Admitting a mistake may then be a "U-turn", but that in turn is never an error, only an offering to that most wayward god, circumstance.

Proceedings at Westminster have been sensibly modified by the admission of the television cameras. The Prime Minister is still liable to riddle the opposition with a hail of automatic statistics at question time, but the decibel count is a good deal lower than it used to be. If the Treasury bench is now to follow Sir Geoffrey Howe's saintly example and concede the possibility of mistake, this could test the fabric of the Punch and Judy Show to destruction. Backbench MPs, in particular, would be faced with the bleak prospect of debating an issue which ministers and whips may, at any minute, disown in a blaze of self-righteous morality. Discipline might collapse.

Before summer is out we could hear *mea culpa* from the England cricket selectors. Mr David Pountney may announce that in his astonishing ENO production of *Macbeth*, red is probably a better colour for blood than green. And as for newspapers, well, Emerson always said that a foolish consistency was the hobgoblin of little minds.

Respecting facts of times gone by

From Dr H. Erskine-Hill, FBA
Sir, During a discussion of later 17th-century poetry, I recently asked two quite able first-year students of English literature: "What happened in 1688?" One had a good A level in history, from a State school; the other, from an independent school, had none. Neither had the faintest idea that anything exceptional happened in that year.

Whether or not this was a failure in historical or general knowledge, it was not unusual. It is hard to teach 17th-century literature to people of such undeveloped public awareness. From this point of view the new report (Details, April 4) on the teaching of history is certainly to be welcomed.

But it is a shame that the report does not reflect what Robert Skidelsky says ("Make them learn the landmarks", April 4): "Factual knowledge... is the core of history." Surely it is obvious that something did (or did not) happen can you enter into the debates of viewpoint and evaluation.

In this respect the current liberal view of teaching history seems either notably self-defeating or, perhaps, sinister. The mind that is factually ignorant is peculiarly vulnerable to ideological takeover. Without factual knowledge, a fascist or a Marxist myth of the past will seem quite plausible.

Nobody advocates facts without understanding, but clearly the one must come before the other. And it may be thought that facts, memory and freedom run together.

Yours faithfully,
HOWARD ERSKINE-HILL,
Pembroke College, Cambridge.
April 4.

From Professor D. Cameron Watt
Sir, To the history of society as a whole, much of the dominant orthodoxy represented by the letter from Professor Thompson (March 29) appears to believe that the history of the United Kingdom (a political concept *par excellence* in itself) can be studied and taught without reference to the changing political structure of British society, or to the interplay of personalities at the top which is an inescapable part of those structures.

Political history at the national level, let alone at the international, is seen as old-hat, uninteresting if not actually irrelevant. For instance, the annual conference hosted by the University of London's Institute of Historical Research is entirely devoted this year to the history of cities, a fascinating subject in itself but only one element in the wide range of historical interests represented among British academics.

The truth is that the lack of any serious forum at which disagreements as to the nature of history could be reasonably debated among British historians has produced a situation in which these disagreements are pursued through bureaucratic mechanisms and in which they are presented as a clash either of personalities or of trends.

Yours sincerely,
D. CAMERON WATT,
London School of Economics and Political Science,
Department of International History,
Houghton Street, WC2.
April 3.

Hardback novels

From Mrs Valerie Grosvenor Myer
Sir, As a novelist and critic partly dependent on Public Lending Right income, I deplore the new policy of Cambridge University Libraries. In future, they will buy almost no hardback fiction. This means that novels which never get into paperback will not be available at the public library, or anywhere else after their shelf-life (about three months) is over.

The implications are serious: those of us who need professionally to keep abreast of current fiction will have to find £12 or £15 a time in order to find out whether the latest fashionable book is worth reading. Most readers either borrow or wait for the paperback. Readers stand to lose access to new fiction; authors stand to lose both library sales and PLR income.

Barbara Cartland and Catherine Cookson will continue to flourish: good serious fiction has received another death blow. Publishers are already wary of publishing any novel not likely to make a hefty profit. The new American publishing consortia (for example, Gollancz, under new management) are seeing fiction from their lists. When even library sales of hardbacks disappear, the plight of the novelist, apart from a blockbusting few, will be desperate. And where is the seedcorn to come from?

Yours etc.,
VALERIE GROSVENOR MYER,
34 West End,
Haddenham,
Cambridge.

Myodil claims

From Mr David N. Harris
Sir, As one of the partners in the firm of solicitors which acted on the Myodil test case (report, March 13) I note with interest the points made by Dr J. L. G. Thomson (April 5).

His claim that the clamour against Glaxo Laboratories, the manufacturers of Myodil, is reaching "near hysterical" proportions is unjustified. The firm has received in excess of 1,000 enquiries and positive instruction to investigate claims on behalf of over 700 prospective plaintiffs.

My experience in this litigation has to date been that the prospec-

Role of police in poll tax riot

From the Very Reverend Dr J. Fraser McLuskey

Sir, In your editorial of April 2 you counsel us to remain calm in the wake of the orgy of violence in central London on March 31. You would do us a greater service if you urged us to be deeply troubled at the price we have for long and much too calmly allowed our police forces to pay.

This last outburst is not new nor need it have taken anyone by surprise. Demonstration after demonstration, whatever the particular purpose, have provided golden opportunities to attack the police. They will continue to do so until either prohibited or drastically curtailed.

If it should be argued that this would be inconsistent with our democratic traditions then let the price be paid until we have devised adequate protection for those who themselves safeguard these traditions. Large-scale demonstration is a luxury we have no right to afford so long as our police meet the cost in wounds and death.

Yours sincerely,
J. FRASER McLUSKEY,
14 Buckingham Terrace,
Edinburgh 4.
April 3.

From Professor P. B. Felgett, FRSS
Sir, It seems that the police, faced with demonstrations, make a fundamental cybernetic error similar to that often made by those who put up road direction signs. This is to forget that those on the ground do not have, and therefore cannot possibly act upon, the synoptic information available to someone sitting in a distant control-room. Indeed senior police officers inadvertently admit this when they try to deflect criticism from eye-

witnesses by saying that these critics saw only the local situation and did not have the whole picture.

Moreover the police, understandably but I argue wrongly, seem to give priority to constraining and apprehending the law-breakers, whereas the first duty of the police in a free society should always be to the innocent.

To the bystander or innocent participant, police charging so as to drive one section of a crowd into another, driving people first one way and then back where they came from, or trampling people in horse-charges, not only appear as rioters in uniform but indeed are just that with respect to their effect on innocent people caught up in the disturbances. It is fundamental to law and order that the innocent citizen must be able to rely on the police behaving benignly without doubt or question.

The priorities of the police should first be to determine what innocent people should and can do to distance themselves from the trouble, second to ensure that the innocent have this information so that they know what to do, and third to rescue anyone prevented by violence or accident from so doing.

There can be no pretence that these objectives are other than very difficult to attain, or that they will be reached except by painful trial based on critical and imaginative analysis, but at least it is a step forward to identify the right aims.

Yours faithfully,
PETER FELLEGETT,
Little Brighton,
St Kew Highway,
Bodmin, Cornwall.
April 3.

Violence in society

From Sir Frank Price

Sir, When will those who govern in our name wake up to the simple truth that the governed do not act in the mild-mannered way of the Jarrow marchers of the thirties? When will it "sink in" that they have created by their actions, or lack of them, a totally different environment?

Do they not see that poorly educated young people who are fed on a diet of violence on our cinema and TV screens daily and left for years without proper employment, grow up into violent young men and women? Walk in any street in almost any town and you can feel the pent-up aggression.

Add to this legislation which patently widens the gulf between the haves and have nots and the sheer arrogance of those pushing it

through the parliamentary process and we have a prescription for continuing and escalating anarchy.

The posturing of ministers is quite frightening. The accepted view in the country is that few if any of the members of the Cabinet have the courage to say "enough is enough".

The British people, the Church, the majority of members of Parliament (I feel sure) want our society to be much more caring. If they fail to grasp the nettle and be more concerned with the future well being of our democracy, of which they are custodians, it will very soon disappear. This country deserves better from them.

Sincerely,
FRANK PRICE,
Reform Club,
Pall Mall, SW1.
April 3.

Electric cars

From Mr Nigel M. Chapman

Sir, It is hardly appropriate for Mr Weighell (March 28) to compare the fuel efficiency of an internal combustion engine once that fuel has been prepared with that of the generating or production efficiency needed to turn fossil fuel into electric power, before it is used by an electric vehicle.

Mr Weighell also overstates the transmission and operating losses of an electric vehicle; modern, solid state controls are highly efficient when compared with resistance control.

His assertion that the materials used in the manufacture of electric vehicles are inherently more expensive than those of an internal combustion vehicle makes no allowance for the relative simplicity of the manufacturing process in the case of the former. Essentially an electric vehicle has only one moving part, the armature, as compared with the crank, valves and gearbox of an internal combustion engine.

Mr Weighell's argument about vehicle heating seems to me to encapsulate all the relative

strengths and weaknesses of the two systems, but juxtaposed, the internal combustion vehicle produces heat as a by-product, whether it is needed or not, whereas the electric vehicle would only draw power for heating as and when required.

Lastly, he makes no allowances for the other obvious advantages of electric vehicles: that when in use, but at rest, power is not being used, that the motor can recharge its own cells when running regeneratively, for example downhill, and that electricity can be derived from a variety of sources, including hydro-electric schemes, unlike the car which is dependent upon one finite resource.

I contend that electric vehicles have far more "street-credibility" than the internal combustion engine; what is needed is a serious, sustained research-and-development programme into alternatives to the petrol and diesel engine.

Yours faithfully,
N. M. CHAPMAN,
6 The Twitten,
Little Common,
Bexhill, East Sussex.
March 28.

Threat to New Forest

From Belinda Lady Montagu

Sir, Those who read Mr John Gummer's response to the New Forest review group report (Details, March 21) may well be apprehensive as to whether the New Forest has a future. The forest faces the same pressures identified in a *Times* report over 50 years ago (May 13, 1939). These have since intensified, but are apparently no nearer solution.

The minister was unable to accept what he acknowledged to be the review group's most important single recommendation, that of obtaining a recognised national status for the New Forest heritage area as designated for planning purposes by the New Forest District Council. Another major recommendation fared little better, the need for the commissioning of animals to be actively supported by all agencies. This was referred to yet another committee for consideration.

What remained scarcely merited publication. In the circumstances, would it not have been better to have waited until a more

constructive answer could be given to the forest's major problems, and then a joint response with the Minister for the Environment?

Yours faithfully,
BELINDA MONTAGU
(President, New Forest Association),
New Farm House,
Longdown, Marchwood,
Southampton, Hampshire.

In a hole

From Mr Robert Mitchell

Sir, As I look from my window at the falling snow, I remember the panic caused by the exceptionally warm winter. There was doubt whether permanent drought or flooding due to rising sea level was the greater danger.

It seems to me that the hole said to exist in the ozone layer must actually be in the greenhouse.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT MITCHELL,
Hatchwood House,
Nursery Road,
Loughton, Essex.
April 4.

us to identify accurately whether or not a sufferer has or has not a valid claim.

We have already been in contact with the manufacturers of what I am assured is the only suitable scanning machine in the country for carrying out such examination and arrangements are in hand for scanning to take place.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HARRIS,
Alexander Harris & Co.
(Solicitors),
Ashfield House,
54 Ashfield Road,
Sale,
Cheshire.
April 5.

Next choice for Canterbury

From Dr G. P. Bonsall

Sir, I read the letters (March 29) regarding the Canterbury succession with interest. The selection process within both the Catholic and Church of England ecclesiastical institutions occurs along secular party political lines. The average churchgoer has no vote, thus he has no choice but to accept — or reject — the esoteric choice of the triumphant party.

Sadly, although retaining immense wealth and political power, privilege and position, the Church has lost its Christian spirit. What does it benefit a man to gain the world, if he loses his soul?

The battle which will ensue behind closed doors will lead to yet another breach in the wall of already irreparably fragmented "Christian unity". The desire of the Church to refine its once powerful political influence has led to its involvement in party politics. This in itself is divisive.

Unfortunately, the system of selection and lack of universal election within the Church will, as in the East block, lead to demise. Today the people demand democracy because this is the only way to obtain their rights. People without rights cannot afford the luxury of Christian duties to others.

The Church is evolving. Priests are losing their power because they have fulfilled their role. The masses can read the word of God for themselves. No well-meaning priest can lead them — too far — astray as in the past. Yours lovingly,
G. P. BONSALE,
Heddenheimer Landstrasse 6,
6000 Frankfurt 50,
West Germany.
March 31.

From the Vicar of Ealing

Sir, At least 16 names have been mooted in the national press as possible successors to Dr Runcie. Rather than the various kinds of popularity poll which are being widely mooted, would not a reverse poll be more useful to those charged with making the appointment? The question, "Who do you not want to see as Archbishop of Canterbury?" might significantly help to clear the ground.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL SAWARD,
Ealing Vicarage,
11 Church Place, W5.

From Lady McFarland

Sir, I was disturbed when I read your profile of Dr Robin Eames (March 27). I knew him when he was Bishop of Derry and Raphoe and he brought leadership and hope to a community which could easily have lost heart during that particularly bad time in Northern Ireland's troubles.

He is also a devout Christian and a kind and caring man, qualities which surely are necessary in bishop or archbishop and which were not even mentioned in your article.

Yours faithfully,
MARYETTE MCFARLAND,
Dunmore House,
Carrigrohane,
Co. Donegal,
Irish Republic.
March 30.

Cure for bullies

From Mrs Doreen Stone

Sir, My seven-year-old granddaughter attends the French Lycée in Rome. One of her subjects is *Educative Civique*. When asked to explain, she airily replied: "Oh, it's all about not kicking other people".

Could not something similar be introduced in our State schools? It would be a positive approach to encouraging considerate behaviour in our children. Yours sincerely,
DOREEN STONE,
4a Chesson Road, W14.

Writing on the wall

From Mrs J. B. Priestley

Sir, My book, *A Land*, illustrates the end of a barn at Hunsworth in Norfolk, strikingly decorated in brick against flint cobble. The date is 1700 and the initials, B above E and R, are those of Edmund and Rebecca Brituff, who are known to have put up the barn several years after their marriage.

The fact that they surrounded date and initials with a bold composition of 11 hearts seems to support Barbara Rayner's suggestion (April 2) that barn building was "quite an event in family life". Yours,
JACQUETTA PRIESTLEY,
Littlecote,
Leysbourne,
Chipping Campden,
Gloucestershire.
April 2.

From Mr Michael R. G. Spiller

Sir, May I raise a problem of historical perception? If I find, one morning, "John Scott 1990" cut into my gatepost, I am outraged; if round the other side I come upon "John Scott 1790", I am delighted; and if under layers of paint I discover "Iohann Scotus MCCXCX", I shall probably get a letter in *The Times*. At what point in time, then, does the vandal move from prosecution to preservation?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL R. G. SPILLER,
University of Aberdeen,
Department of English,
Taylor Building,
King's College,
Old Aberdeen.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01)782 5046.

OBITUARIES

THE VERY REV "BILL" WILLIAMS

PETER DOHERTY



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 7: By Command of Her Majesty the Queen, the Earl of Arundel (Lord Chamberlain) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this morning upon the departure of The President of the Republic of India and Shrimati Venkataraman and bade farewell to their Excellencies on behalf of Her Majesty.

The Princess Royal, Patron, Scottish Rugby Union, this evening attended a Celebration Dinner at the Carlton Highland Hotel, Edinburgh.

April 8: The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, this afternoon visited Windsor Rugby Football Club. The Duke of Edinburgh later

Marriages

Mr R.W. Wadey
and **Lady Bridget Ann Stuart**
The marriage took place on Saturday at All Saints', East Pennard, Somerset, of Mr Robert Wadey, only son of Mr Thomas Wadey and the late Mrs Wadey, of Marine Gardens, Brighton, to Lady Bridget Ann Stuart, daughter of Earl and Countess Castle Stewart, of Stonehouse Farm, East Pennard, Somerset. Canon G. Farran officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by the Hon Celia Stuart, Miss Lisa Hodge and Miss Anna Louise Hodge. Mr Graeme Rolf was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent in Madeira.

Mr T.J. Voss
and **Miss D.F. Hare**
The marriage took place on Saturday, April 7, between Tim, youngest son of Mr and Mrs D.J. Voss, of Adelaide, Australia, and Diana, youngest daughter of the Earl and Countess of Listowel, of Hampstead, London.

The Hon C.B. Brannery
and **Miss A. Brannery**
The marriage took place on Saturday in the Chapel of St Mary Undercroft, Palace of Westminster, of the Hon Charles Bruce, son of Lord and Lady Aberdeen, of London, SW6, to Miss Anna Brannery, daughter of the late Mr Se Brannery and of Mrs Brannery, of Falun, Sweden. The Rev Patrick Tuft officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by Mr Dan Skellin, was attended by Sarah Bruce, Antonia Bruce, Nicholas, of Milborne, Dorset, and Thomas MacThomas. The Hon Adam Bruce was best man.

A reception was held at Wellington Barracks and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr R.D. Means
and **the Hon Juliet Deedes**
The marriage took place on Saturday at the Christian Community Church, Aldington, Ashford, Kent, of Mr Robert Deedes, eldest son of Mr Robert Means, of Blythe, California, and Mrs Celia Holbrook, of Hemet, California, to the Hon Juliet Evelyn Deedes, eldest daughter of Lord and Lady Deedes, of New Haywards, Aldington. The Rev Cyril Crompton and the Rev John Dyer officiated.

The bride was given in marriage by her father, Mr Jon Omev was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent at Land's End.

Mr R.L. Jones
and **Miss H.C. Methuen**
The marriage took place on Saturday at St Michael's, Kington, Derbyshire, of Mr Robert Lewellyn Jones, elder son of Mr and Mrs D.J. Jones, of Reigate, Surrey, to Miss H. Christian (Kitty) Methuen, younger daughter of the Hon R.A.H. and Mrs Methuen, of Kington. The Ven C.C. Hooper, grandfather of the bride, officiated, assisted by Canon A. Betts, who said the prayers.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was

Birthdays today

Mr Severiano Ballesteros, golfer, 33; Mr Justice Simon Brown, 33; Sir Brian Cubbon, civil servant, 62; Mr C. Denmore, 79; the Most Rev Domenico Enrici, former Apostolic Nuncio, 81; Lord Fitz, 64; Senator J. William Fulbright, American politician, 85; Miss Hannah Gordon, actress, 49; Sir Graham Hills, principal and vice-chancellor, Strathclyde University, 64; Mr Tom Jackson, trades unionist, 65; Mr Alva Knott, cricketer, 46; Mr Tom Lehrer, lecturer and song-

writer, 62; Mr Peter Moores, former chairman, Littlewoods Organisation, 58; Mr Vincent O'Brien, racehorse trainer, 73; Sir Michael Ogden, QC, 64; Sir Michael Ondaatje, former Head of the Diplomatic Service, 68; Mr Eli Prins, art historian, 86; Miss Valerie Singh, broadcaster, 53; Mr Michael Somare, C.M., first Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, 54; Professor D.M. Walker, QC, 70; Mr Frank Yardley, racehorse trainer, 47; Sir Richard Young, former chairman, Boosey and Hawkes, 76.

Mr J.C. Maughan
and **Miss J.C. Oakes**
The engagement is announced between Jon, youngest son of Mr Michael Maughan, of Dorset, Surrey, and Mrs Joan Maughan, of Roshampton, Surrey, and Jane Charlotte, only daughter of Mr Jonathan Oakes, and Mrs Jean Oakes, of Kingston, Surrey.

Mr J.M. Olliver
and **Miss J.L. Wright**
The engagement is announced between Jean-Marc, only son of Mr and Mrs Jean Olliver, of Harare, Zimbabwe, and Jacqueline Louise, eldest daughter of Mr John Wright, and Mrs Anthony Singlehurst, of The Manor House, Southwick, West Sussex.

Mr M.C. Humphreys
and **Miss S.M.L. Philbrick**
The engagement is announced between Martin, second son of Lt Col and Mrs C.A. Humphreys, of Berwick House, Berwick St James, Salisbury, Wiltshire, and Julie, daughter of Mr and Mrs D.R. Rawson, of Wadhurst, Sussex.

The Very Rev Harold C.N. ("Bill") Williams, Provost of Coventry Cathedral from 1958 to 1981, died aged 75 on April 5. He was born on December 6, 1914.

His was the creative mind which inspired the launching of the new Coventry Cathedral in a way that captured the imagination of millions of people in many parts of the world.

When the medieval cathedral was destroyed by German bombs in 1940 the then provost was determined that what had been destroyed in hate should be rebuilt in a spirit of reconciliation. But soon after the laying of the foundation stone in 1956, and the building work had begun, he resigned to make room for a younger man to pilot the new cathedral towards its completion and to inaugurate its ministry.

For this great task Williams was chosen. Born in South Africa, where he began his education, he came to Durham University and later was ordained to a curacy in Winchester. He was called back to South Africa as Principal of St Matthew's College in 1941 where he stayed for eight years.

Returning to England, he became Rector of St Mary's Church, Southampton. This city centre church had been destroyed by enemy action only a few weeks after Coventry, and Williams's work there in rebuilding his church and re-establishing its ministry convinced Dr Cuthbert Bardsley, then Bishop of Coventry, that Williams would be exactly the right man for the new cathedral. Events were to prove that no better choice could have been made.

Bill Williams (as he was always known) arrived in Coventry in 1958 and with his next task was the four-year task of planning the future ministry and organisation of the remarkable new building

which the late Sir Basil Spence had designed.

There were innumerable questions to be answered. What kind of staff would be needed? What should be the pattern and style of worship? What kind of community should be evolved to support the cathedral and its worship and service? What kind of relationship should the cathedral establish with the diocese, the city and the wider community at home and abroad?

This huge and daunting task Williams undertook with considerable vision and with a courage which sprang from the spiritual resources of prayer and Bible study which he knew to be essential if the great work entrusted to him was to succeed.

When he came to Coventry, the congregation consisted of a few dozen people worship-

ing in an underground crypt chapel beneath the ruins.

For months after the consecration of the new cathedral in May 1962 there were 2,000 people at every service and on weekdays men and women from all over the world waited in long queues to see the building about which they had heard so much.

But always at the centre of his thinking was the cathedral as the messenger of reconciliation. In 1961 he told an audience in Germany: "We are trying to make the cathedral a symbol of reconciliation, internationally, ecumenically, industrially and personally. It is the one hope and vision which has anything to offer the future."

Within the cathedral precincts Williams created an international centre, opened by Dr Otto Dibelius, the

German Protestant bishop, and a hostel to which young people could come from all over the world. This later became the John Kennedy House, which was opened by Herr Willy Brandt, the former West German Chancellor.

Increasingly, his travels took him abroad and Williams made significant links with Germany, particularly in Berlin, where he was a friend of Dr Kurt Scharf, and in Dresden. In 1967 his efforts were recognised by the Bonn government with the highest award of the German Order of Merit.

Williams formed the Community of the Cross of Nails, uniting in prayer, discipline and commitment Christians living in areas of conflict and tension. Through his work Coventry became a name indicative of the spirit of reconciliation in many parts of the world.

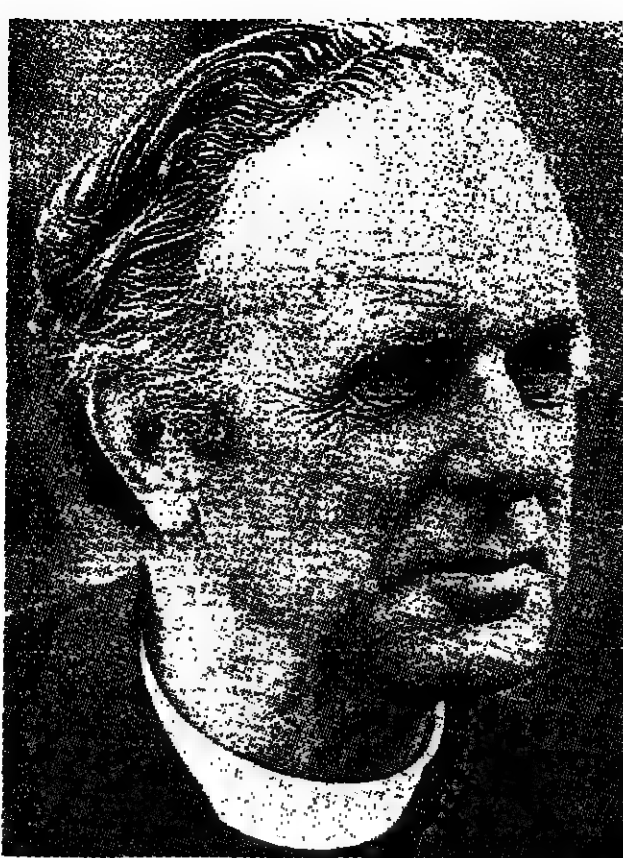
It sometimes seemed that Williams's work was more appreciated abroad than at home. He preferred to work on a large canvas, was impatient with what he considered to be the trivialities of church life and he had little fondness for ecclesiastical synods.

But through his outstanding leadership in Coventry he pioneered many liturgical and evangelistic ideas which were considered novel at the time, but are now widely accepted.

He made a great contribution to the renaissance of cathedral life which is characteristic of this century.

He was author of several books; his main work was *Twentieth Century Cathedral* (1964) interpreting the life of Coventry Cathedral and its relevance for the church today. He was working on his memoirs when he died.

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Peter Doherty, the former Ireland, Manchester City and Northern Ireland manager, died aged 77 at his home in Blackpool on April 6.

He was, unarguably, the greatest Irish inside forward of all time, and one of the world's great. Flame-haired, and with a temperament to match his colouring, Peter Doherty was almost the complete footballer, one of the few for whom colleagues and opponents alike have no qualifications to their unstinting praise and admiration.

"He was the great North Star that twinkled brightly in the heavens, promising untold glory, beckoning me to follow and always showing the way," Denny Blanchflower said, who was his captain when Doherty achieved his finest hour as a manager, taking Northern Ireland to the World Cup Finals for the first time in 1958.

His goals played an important part in the successes of Manchester City, Derby County and Doncaster Rovers in his days with them, but he was much more than just a goalscorer. As an orchestrator of his side's play he was supreme, and he possessed a Trojan's appetite for work.

"Peter almost played us off the park by himself," Maurice Edelman recalled after Doherty scored all four Irish goals as Ireland lost 7-4 to a Combined Services team, England in all but name, in a match at Windsor Park during the Second World War. "He might have got another four but for Frank Swift. Even in defence Peter must have stopped us scoring twice as many as we did. He was almost a one-man team - and if Ireland had had two Dohertys that day I shudder to think what might have happened."

Born in Magherafelt, Londonderry, Doherty began with Glentoran, after a cruel fall start with his local club Coleraine, and brief careers as a brickie and a bus conductor. There was never any real doubt what his true vocation was, and in 1933, at 19, Blackpool paid £2,000 for him.

He spent three years with the seaside club, winning the first of his many national cups. For Ireland, he scored Manchester City paid the then large fee of £10,000 for him.

The fee was quickly repaid, Doherty proving the final link in a side containing Frank Swift, Beres and Bray, Tilson

and Alec Herd, and they won the championship in his first season. Doherty contributed 30 of their 107 goals.

It was said in those days that he would burn himself out he was so prodigious with his energy. He did not, but City did with startling suddenness, the championship being followed a year later by relegation.

The Second World War then intervened to deprive Doherty of five years of what should have been his prime, and after it he moved on to Derby County. He only stayed one season, but a memorable one it was, Derby winning the FA Cup with some dazzling football as Doherty formed a famous partnership with Raich Carter, one of the few players to be ranked among his peers.

Ticket allocations for the Cup Final became a source of conflict, however, and Doherty asked for a transfer, moving on to Huddersfield Town before, at 36, joining third division Doncaster as player manager. Contributing 36 goals himself, he led them into the Second Division, and for a time it seemed as if he might become a notable manager.

His fiery nature, however, made him an uncomfortable employee for some directors, and he finally resigned.

But if his international career as a player had been unrewarding, that arena was to offer him fulfilment as a manager. Forming a notable partnership with the captain, Denny Blanchflower, he inspired Northern Ireland to their finest hours, beating England at Wembley for the first time in 1957 and one year later reaching the World Cup Finals in Sweden, where they surprised the world by reaching the quarter-finals.

He is survived by his wife, Jessie, and their only son Paul.

CAPT RONALD EVANS
Captain Ronald E. Evans, who was the pilot of the Apollo 17 command module on the voyage to the moon in 1972, died in his sleep, aged 56, on April 7.

After completing a perfect ending to the final manned mission in the South Pacific

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SIR KEITH GRANVILLE

Sir Keith Granville, CBE, who was the last Chairman and Chief Executive of the British Overseas Airways Corporation (BOAC) and the first Deputy Chairman of British Airways, died at the age of 79 in Lausanne on April 7. He was born on November 1, 1910.

From the time when he joined Imperial Airways in 1929 until he retired from British Airways in 1974, Granville devoted his working life to British air transport as a thorough-going transport professional. His career began in IAL as a manager of overseas stations, then as BOAC's sales and commercial director, joining the BOAC Board in 1959.

With a wide experience and sound common sense, he was well regarded throughout the world of international air

transport, a fact recognized by his presidency of IATA.

Keith Granville - born K.G. Solomon - in Faversham, Kent - was the son of Albert James Solomon, a sales representative. He was educated at Tonbridge School and then joined Imperial Airways Limited in 1929 as one of the two original commercial trainees.

During the 1930s he gained experience of Imperial Airways' overseas routes as a station manager successively in Brindisi, Italy, Tanganyika, Southern Rhodesia and India - largely, in those days, on Imperial Airways flying-boat lines.

By the end of the Second World War, his worth was recognized and he was made

Manager, Africa and the Middle East. He came back to BOAC's headquarters in 1948 as general manager of mails, traffic and catering and, in 1951, sales director for all BOAC's overseas services.

This was followed by the post of commercial director in 1954 and of deputy managing director under Sir Basil Spence in 1958.

Granville joined the BOAC board in 1959 and succeeded Sir George Cribbitt as chairman of BOAC's associated companies in 1960, becoming deputy chairman of BOAC under Sir Giles Guthrie in 1964 and BOAC's chairman and chief executive in 1971.

When the British Airways group was formed in 1972, Granville was its first deputy chairman. He was knighted in

1973. Granville had been president of the Chartered Institute of Transport in 1963/64 and President of IATA in 1972/73.

Granville was thus immersed for 45 years in all the stages of the development of British air transport, from biplanes to monoplanes, from landplanes through the era of the flying-boats and back to landplanes with the arrival of jet transport aircraft.

On his retirement, he went to live in Chateau d'Oex, Switzerland.

In 1933 he married Patricia Capstick by whom he had one daughter. The marriage was dissolved in 1945. In 1946 he married Truda Bellis by whom he had one son and four daughters. He is survived by his wife and children.

James Tolhurst

Into the country of lost borders

THEOLOGY depends for its life blood on the capacity of the human mind to speculate. Mr Pickwick liked to ruminate on the strange mutability of human affairs, and theologians it seems are increasingly drawn to consider the possible, the "what if?"

James Bligh, in *A Case of Conscience*, pondered on a new world possibly free from sin without involving himself in difficulties of redemption. Medieval philosophers coined the term *futuribles* to deal with the foreknowledge of God. It has crept into the debate on woman priests.

Part of the argument in favour is based on what is considered a time-conditioned and, by implication, sexist choice of masculinity for the Incarnation. Nobody could deny that the role of women even a hundred years ago, let alone two thousand, was different. Pope John XXIII wrote in 1963: "Since women are becoming ever more conscious of their human dignity, they will not tolerate being treated as inanimate objects or mere instruments, but claim, both in domestic and public life, the rights and duties that befit a human person." Some would argue further that *de facto* there is a discrimination in the choice of the male gender even

if that was not seen at the time of the Incarnation, yet which can be corrected now.

But in his famous work, *Cur Deus Homo?* St Anselm, then in exile as Archbishop of Canterbury, did not hesitate to talk in terms of a certain "necessity" in God despite all the freedom with which omnipotence is surrounded. For even though we might always assume that God could have acted differently from the way he actually chose, we cannot go on to predicate of him our own logic. The Incarnation is after all, the enfleshment of the *Logos*.

But we need to do more than just state that the divine choice of the male gender for the Incarnation is bound up with the mystery of divine knowledge. Hans Von Balthasar argued that the uninterrupted practice in the church rested on a reality found within the substance of the church's structure itself and its sacramental character. The *Letter to the Ephesians*, which has had such a bad press from feminists, does give us the great mystery enacted between husband and wife - Christ and church.

This is made clearer still in 1 *Corinthians* where Paul says: "I would have to know that the head of every

man is Christ, and the head of the woman is the man." This is not telling us about gender roles but about the relation of Christ and the church in the order of salvation.

We owe to Jurgen Moltmann the concept of projecting forward to the last days in order to

Manners and modes

TELEVISION
Sheridan Morley

STAMPED

Does the workadaddy deserve a break?

British fathers have become the workaholics of Europe — one in three works more than 50 hours a week. While they do so, can British mothers have careers? Alan Franks investigates

If the 1990s are to fulfil their promise as a decade of significant re-entry by women into the labour market, they will also pose a largely unforeseen challenge to men as they are forced to re-appraise their own social and economic contribution to the family unit — above all, in the area of child-minding.

For Britain has reached a peculiar crossroads in the evolution of equal opportunities in which, contrary to much national stereotyping, the professional male and father of young children is said to be putting in more office hours than any of his European counterparts. Whether he is a victim of pressures and incentives to succeed financially, or an inheritor of the belief that children are a woman's work, his function is about to rise steadily on the political agenda.

Evidence of this will be found on Wednesday at the London Business School, where the Working Mothers' Association is convening a one-day conference called "Women at Work: a Decade of Change". Today, the association is operating against a backdrop of great apprehension felt by major employers, including the National Health Service and the Department of Education and Science, about the practicalities of securing young mothers to perform vital jobs, even if those mothers are eager, in principle, to return to work.

"Our feeling is that women have been extraordinarily flexible about the problems of combining motherhood with their own and their husband's sense of need to work," says Lucy Daniels, the association's director. "But if they head any further, they will snap."

According to figures collated from the labour force surveys which each member country of the EC is obliged to make, one British father in three works more than 50 hours a week. About 46,000 fathers with children aged eight or under are clocking up at least 98 hours. In West Germany only 14 per cent of fathers with under-fives at home work more than 50 hours. In Spain and Denmark the figure is 12 per cent, in Italy 11, and in France a mere nine.

If British men might once have expected that table to bring them accolades for their devotion to professional life and the family exchequer, such days are passing; women and their representative bodies are focusing instead on the more sinister data lurking beneath such evidence of industry. In particular, they are pointing out that it is precisely because the British employment market is so heavily biased against pregnant and nursing mothers that the husbands feel justified in working even harder to supplement the lost income. They are also demonstrating that because women's wages remain, on average, 70 per cent lower than men's, there is an economic rationale for his job and career to maintain priority over hers.

In the present confused picture, both genders can make out a plausible case for being under unprecedented pressure. For while women lay claim to their equal right to earning power and a professional life, many of their partners are inveighing bitterly against the "injustice" which has on the one hand demanded that they share the responsibilities of child care from the day of delivery, and on the other pushed them into the heat of a highly competi-



Confronting to catastrophe? "For 18 months the debate has been about working mothers. Now it is coming to be about fathers as well"

tive life. They are not universally accused of unwillingness. "I have a friend whose husband works in advertising," Mrs Daniels says. "Careers do not come more competitive than that. He would love to get home promptly to play his part, but the problems at work are chronic. They are problems that derive largely from the corporate culture, out for the obligatory 'working' lunch, which goes on for hours, then back to the office to work late."

"If we have taken the lead in this from the United States, then I

would say there are some welcome signs that the pendulum is about to swing. For example, I have heard stories from American companies which make me believe that at long last some bosses might be beginning to understand the dangers in these practices, and they are actually demanding that their staff get away on time."

The embarrassing reality for Britain is that, set against the young fathers' pre-eminence in the hours league is the fact that it remains the only EC country in which there is no universal right to

maternity leave, and that its levels of publicly funded childcare services are among the lowest. In other words, it is becoming hard to dodge the conclusion that questions of equality, women's rights, care provision and industrial practice are not the discrete matters they have hitherto been supposed to be, but parts of a far larger and more complex equation.

In the opinion of Peter Moss, co-ordinator of the European Childcare Network, it is an equation which will only be resolved through a combination of individ-

ual compromise and political will.

"I don't believe that we have even addressed the reality that women get pregnant," he says. "We have working practices that have been fitted around men who don't take the same sense of responsibility into the home. Women either have to compete with men, or settle for second-best jobs. If they choose the first course, then they are being asked to emulate a socially dubious way of behaving."

"The immense change in all this is that until now men have been

'We have working practices that have been fitted around men who don't take the same sense of responsibility into the home'

able to creep away and say: 'It's nothing to do with us.' In the past 18 months the whole debate has been about working mothers. Now it is coming to be about working fathers as well."

The European country which has come closest to tackling the equation is Sweden, where the domestic role of the working father lies firmly in the area of political discourse. In 25 years the society has undergone a revolution from arch-traditionalism to an apparent profligacy of parental rights in employment. Apart from being entitled to a combined total of 15 months leave, to be taken before the child is eight, a couple can take up to 90 paid days a year to look after a sick child or to cover for an indisposed minder. Perhaps most significantly, the parents also have the right to limit their working day to six hours.

The Swedish experience, Mr Moss argues, is not that these measures act as a deterrent to employers, but that companies recognize that without such incentives women would not be part of the labour force in the first place. "They have realized that all these things are interlocked, and have matched that understanding with a vigorous expansion of their childcare services."

If, in the 1990s and beyond, we do proceed down the Swedish road, and if, in so doing, we also inherit some of that country's stock of humour, we had better prepare ourselves for this kind of joke:

Wife: "I'm divorcing you."

Husband: "But why? I haven't done anything."

Wife: "That's the reason."

Important footnote: 70 per cent of Swedish divorces are initiated by the wives.

What do you do when your teenage daughter comes home from school and announces she is a vegetarian? Nothing, of course, if she merely wants to eat rice and beans rather than lamb. But what if her decision means she is not just following a private predilection but has joined a movement and is declaring war?

Vegetarians are not content just to munch their carrots, they want to convert the whole family into rabbits. They cannot stand living in a house in which the fridge contains a pork-chop. Clearly the normal eaters have to mount a defensive action — and soon, for the war is hotting up. Last week it was revealed that a survey conducted on behalf of the Ralston Company, which specializes in vegetarian foods, had found that more than two million people in this country are now total vegetarians. The company's founder predicted that in 20 years half the population will be following a vegetable-based diet.

The tactics to be employed will depend on the type of vegetarian. The daughter is repelled by concern about animals. She feels that they should not be killed. Give her *A Feast in the Wild*, by animal specialist Russell Kyle. The book's thesis, much simplified, is that there is no better service one can render a species of animal than to kill and eat them — providing the eating, preferably in the wild, is managed properly.

Why are there so many vegetarians in Britain? Because we shoot and eat them. The huge numbers of cows and chickens on our little island are not the result of any innate cunning or strength they may have, but of carnivores tucking into *cog au vin* and *boeuf en daube*. Once a species has

In defence of sullied flesh

As the number of vegetarians continues to grow, an unabashed and red-blooded carnivore delivers a jab for the ribs



economic value, there is an incentive to rear and look after it.

Mr Kyle points out that we are really rather laagerly about killing animals. Though there are more than 200 species of wild large herbivores in the world, we have domesticated fewer than two dozen. He holds out the tantalizing delights of ostrich, capybara and, especially, guinea-pig meat. Long popular in Peru, where 20 million are currently being reared, guinea-pigs taste like rabbit.

The Kyle thesis will not convert the daughter, instantly, but it does discount simple-minded animal sentimentality. Follow it

immediately with a dose of St Paul wrenched out of context (1 Timothy 4): it warns of "giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils... commanding to abstain from meats which God created to be received with thanksgiving".

The survey reported that new (wealthier) adult vegetarians are motivated by health — their own, rather than that of the animals. They too can be a pain. The more bellicose are unspeakably bad-mannered. When normal eaters have declared vegetarians to dinner, they naturally serve their guests vegetarian food and even eat it themselves. How many vegetarians do the

equivalent when they entertain normals?

The less-bellicose can sometimes be quietened by facts. Try this: "Animal products provide a number of essential nutrients — iron for the blood, amino-acids for body repair, potassium and the B vitamins. One can survive healthily on an extreme vegetarian diet, but it is a complex and contrived exercise — dangerous if not carefully done. Meat provides health more easily: you could almost say 'score naturally'."

Facts are often, however, a waste of time. Vege-warriors prefer slogans with which they bombard you while you are eating the dull food they impose on you. *Sexual Politics of Meat*, a new book by Carol Adams, explains how "being a vegetarian reverberates with feminist meaning". Meat eating is not only a "symbol of male power, it is an index of racism". It is also linked to war, whereas vegetarianism goes with lesbianism and totalitarianism. There is no arguing with such people: it is best to run.

Both loony and faddish varieties of vegetarianism are the fruit of western societies which have the time and money to be wasteful and status-conscious about food, particularly Britain and the US which have no widespread tradition of taste in eating. Look at the great cuisines of France, China, Italy, then at the hotchpotch Ms Adams is so proud to record in her diary: "Dinner was marvelous — Middle Eastern bread, tomato, avocado, sunflower butter on toast, bananas... Returning here at 9.00 I read Kate Millet and didn't do my yoga."

Digby Anderson
Sexual Politics of Meat will be published by Polity Press on April 26, price £8.95.

The mood in Manhattan: Fashion Editor Liz Smith reports on the fast-moving, sassy style of New York — the redefined classics that only the great American designers can supply



The meeting



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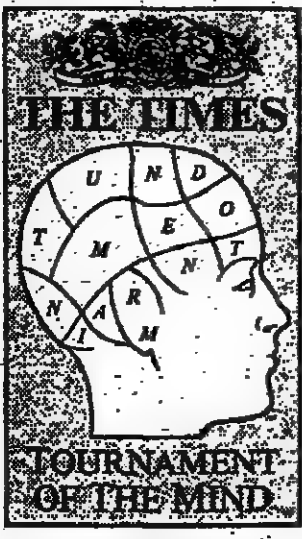
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each paying £101; miscellany: 1. Chester (3, 17/9) 2. Blue whale 3. Manchester 4. Hirohito 5. Edward Lear Four diagrams: 5C on the outer circle; verbal: ball; logic: Pat; maths: 150 miles; miscellany: 1. Joseph Goebbels 2. 1212 3. Black 4. Montgomery 5. 1888 Five diagrams: 12; verbal: logic: 6 letters in the days of the week; maths: 248 runs; miscellany: 1. Aeroflot 2. chow

chow 3. Hungary 4. Financial Times 5. The Philippines Six diagrams: 14; verbal: thicken and kitchen; logic: 457 miles (A = 31, B = 32 and so on); maths: £5,776; miscellany: Lake Michigan (8,89) Seven diagrams: (A1, B1, D3), (A4, C5), (D1, E2, C2); verbal: PAPER ABUSE PUNKA ESKER REARM logic: 93 full drinks; maths: 44 minutes; miscellany: Michael Dukakis (4, 261) Eight diagrams: 140; verbal: headfast; logic: K (initials of metric capacity); maths: 10min 55sec; miscellany: Jaguar, (5,471)

Nine diagrams: car B; verbal: "It is better to die on your feet than to live on your knees" — Dolores Ibarruri; logic: 94 (multiply and add); maths: 2min and 31sec; miscellany: Grand Canal, (5,415) Tens diagrams: "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat" — Churchill; verbal: 6 moves: poor, poor, road, road, road, road; logic: 91 hours; maths: 20 runs; miscellany: 10th century royal gravestones (6,527)

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Round One: diagram: D3; verbal: coney; logic: divide, multiply, add (117/9 x 4 + 4); maths: 12 minutes; miscellany: 1. Ramsey II, (1,47) 2. Richard Starkey 3. Kasia Limpit 4. Friday Street Club 5. Australia Two diagrams: 13 ways; verbal: "Every man over forty is a scoundrel" — George Bernard Shaw; logic: tube E; maths: 54; miscellany: 1. Helios (Also accept Apollo) 2. Joe DiMaggio 3. Lika George 4. D.H. Lawrence 5. Paestum, Lucina or Vergina (There is a discrepancy between entries in Micropeadia and Macropeadia of Encyclopaedia Britannica, so both are accepted) Three diagrams: 36; verbal: bluebird, pinto, crowed, nightingale; logic: 3U on the bottom row; maths: 77 people

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EDUCATION

Edited by David Tytler

Lessons well learnt on the ski slopes

Two years after a school skiing tragedy in the Austrian Alps, Douglas Broom joined a party of pupils on a trip organized under new safety guidelines

Thousands of teenagers will pack their schoolbags and ski boots this Easter and head for the pistes of Europe, unaware that their holiday will coincide with the anniversary of a tragedy that altered the face of school skiing.

Throughout the Eighties school skiing enjoyed a golden age. More and more resorts were opened to school parties and parents grew familiar with the annual demand for money and equipment. But it came to an abrupt end on April 4, 1988, when four teenage boys from Althwood School, Maidenhead, Berkshire, fell 250 feet to their deaths from the Untersberg mountain near Salzburg.

They had strayed from a group sliding on the snow near the top of the 6,000ft mountain and fallen over the edge of a precipice. What had seemed a sophisticated, if expensive, extension to the school sporting calendar suddenly became the focus of parental grief

and outrage. The inquiry which followed blamed the teachers for not enforcing warnings not to stray and failing to properly supervise the youngsters on the mountain.

Berkshire county council's education committee decided to introduce new regulations proposed by the inquiry and agreed to pass on the details to the Association of County Councils. Among the measures the committee suggested were that pupil/staff ratios should be reviewed; that experienced staff should be found; that clear advice should be given to parents and to children taking part

in "hazardous" trips and that a yearly check should be made by governors to make sure suitable educational and social activities were being offered.

The Government has laid down guidelines which require leaders to be trained and set minimum ratios of adults to children. On skiing and other sports trips, leaders must be qualified to instruct or lead a party.

Discipline is also tighter than ever before, as I saw for myself last week, when I joined Jane Hedley, the sports mistress at Queen Ethelburga's independent girls' school, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, and her husband John, taking a party of 13 pupils aged between 12 and 17 to Folgarida, north of Trento, in the Italian Dolomites.

Visits to a local dry ski slope were a mandatory part of preparations which included everything from safety lectures to a detailed packing list. By the time they saw the first snow, the pupils had a good idea of what lay ahead.

Folgarida is a resort with excellent nursery and intermediate slopes. Little known to British skiers, its runs link it to Madonna di Campiglio, its larger and more sophisticated neighbour. Facilities are simple — a few bars, a lone pizzeria and some shops — and offer few temptations to teenagers away from home to run wild.

The tour organizers, Brighton-based Quest Travel, the largest operator of school skiing holidays, accommodate school parties to together in one hotel, the largely timber-built 103-bed Albergo Piccolo Sole.

Apart from the worrying absence of a fire alarm system, the hotel offers good basic accommodation and the chance for party leaders to keep children together for all the meals which are included in the cost of between £309 and £428 a head.

Mrs Hedley appropriated part of the lounge for a post-arrival briefing and later, in the same venue, Emma Masella, the Quest representative, delivered a talk which again stressed safety.

In the afternoon, the party visited the ski store to be kitted out by Robin, the British ski technician. "We get very few real



Follow my leader: teenage pupils take their first faltering steps on the nursery slopes after skiing lessons given by trained instructors

problems," he said. "Generally speaking the teachers know how to keep the children in order. The accidents only happen when the kids get too cocky."

Next morning on the nursery slopes, Mr and Mrs Hedley, both experienced skiers — she holds the English Skiing Association's instructor's certificate — assist the beginners from those who could cope with more advanced tuition. "If anyone goes out of my sight they will have their ski pass taken away," Mrs Hedley said.

Moving off with the Italian instructors, the beginners quickly mastered the short chair lift to the top of the nursery slope.

The instructors, all appointed by Quest, kept a weather-eye out for piste stars who swept by with a flourish. Dario, an instructor, said: "The worst time is the school holidays when so many children come that they run into one another. That is when accidents happen, but we do not get many."

In two days we saw two injuries on the piste, but neither were to members of school parties. After lunch at the hotel, the party

prepared to go back up to the slopes in the care of the Hedleys. Instruction is provided only for two hours in the morning. While the girls learnt to ski or polished their technique, Mr and Mrs Hedley skied all over the mountain checking the runs.

The afternoon brought the first example of the new toughness teachers must show to keep their

more hazardous. A group of youths began snowballing the girls as they walked in the village, and one was hit in the eye. The next day, her eye swollen, she had to be driven down 30 miles of winding mountain road to Trento for treatment.

Some parents are not only concerned with safety but also sceptical of the educational value

their only chance to enjoy this particular sport.

The headmaster of a London comprehensive says he believes that skiing trips fulfil a wide range of educational objectives. "I am convinced that the experience of being abroad, travelling, living away from home and having to speak a foreign language is immensely valuable," he says.

Parental criticism of the practice of giving teachers free accommodation and travel on skiing trips would seem unjustified from the evidence of the Folgarida party. The Hedleys more than earn it.

At 11.30pm, as locals began to make their way home from the bars, the couple from Harrogate were heading out into the night to find a missing girl pupil, one of the older teenagers, and found her happily chatting with an admiring group of Italian boys.

As they marched her swiftly back to the hotel, it was hard not to conclude that, if all ski trips are run with such vigour, parents have little to fear about a recurrence of the Untersberg tragedy.

'The tour operator accommodates school parties in one, largely timber-built, 103-bed hotel, but there was a worrying absence of a fire alarm system'

charges safe. A girl who was an accomplished skier set off on her own with a group of Italians. Swiftly spotted by Mrs Hedley, she lost her lift pass for the day and returned to the hotel.

On the slopes, Mrs Hedley coached the beginners on the nursery slopes while her husband took the rest to higher runs. They returned exhausted but unharmed. An evening stroll proved

of the annual trip to the Alps (the heavily critical report from the Berkshire committee also queried such trips' worth). Teachers appear divided: one south London headmistress says that while skiing combines foreign travel with the chance to learn a new sport,

"There may be many better ways of going abroad to learn a foreign language. But school skiing trips offer children from deprived areas

Teacher regards it as education. The pupils think it fun. The result is a newspaper

The classroom that turned into a newsroom

Natalie Keyte was enjoying being a reporter. She had just spoken to Norman Gifford, the Sussex cricket coach, and was off to interview a research scientist with the Body Shop. She had not had all the good jobs. One of her colleagues had interviewed the pop group Five Bunny, but it was still a good start to her birthday. She was 10.

Natalie was one of 37 boys and girls, aged nine to 11, who had turned their classroom into a newsroom for the day (David Tytler writes). They began at 8am and finished at 7pm, and a 32-page tabloid newspaper ran off the presses as they went home.

Their paper, the *C-I-H Journal*, was one of 148 entries in the twice-yearly Newspaper Day Competition for schools organized by Campus 2000, the computer system run for schools by The Times Network Service.

John Orrey, the fourth-year teacher at the 400-pupil Cross in Hand Church of England School, near Heathfield, East Sussex, was at pains to stress the educational benefits of the competition, which the children clearly saw as simply good fun.

He said: "Producing the newspaper helps us with our language policy. It involves lots of reading, research and writing skills. The children take notes and produce drafts, redrafts and then the final copy."

The paper is produced by

teams of three responsible for different sections, so they have to learn how to co-operate with one another. They also have to meet and deal with people outside the school, in selling advertisements and arranging interviews.

Natalie was using all of these skills but summed it up more easily: "I like it."

Mr Orrey might also have added that producing the paper against the clock teaches children to run their own affairs. They sold local advertising worth about £130 and will sell the 700 copies of the paper for 20p each. The paper was printed by a nearby company and paid for by five local businesses. Any profit will be put back into the school computer funds.

The school has taken second prize in the primary section twice, winning £150 in last October's competition. It used the money, together with £50 donated by a local bank, to buy a colour printer.

The children worked on nine BBC Master computers, seven of

them borrowed from other schools, and began work three weeks before press day. Initially they practised with the computer programmes they were due to use and allocated the various sections, ranging from national to international news, sport to entertainment, cookery to education and technology to competitions.

About 10 days later they turned their attention to selling advertising and setting up interviews, most of which were done on the school telephone. It would have been very difficult to get a call into Cross in Hand School on that day.

The editorial team consisted of two reporters and one other pupil to lay out the pages and input the stories. The news reporters made regular checks with the newsroom of TVS, the regional television station, and took contributions from a central news agency provided by Campus 2000. The agency this time was manned by boys from a school in Staffordshire.

Four older children roamed the room, two to help with writing and inputting, the others to handle problems with the computers. "They really are very competent," Mr Orrey said.

The children at Cross in Hand use their computers to write stories and print programmes for school concerts, including *Godspell* this month. The annual £184 subscription to Campus 2000 paid by the parent-teacher association gives them access to a primary school database, which provides projects in science, language and mathematics.

Subscribers are also given an electronic mailbox, which allows them to communicate with schools both nationally and internationally. The school recently swapped playground games with a school in Tasmania. Closer to home it has been involved in joint projects with other Sussex schools.

Throughout the school there was a general air of excitement mirrored in 100 secondary schools and 47 other primaries competing for the two top prizes of new computers. But you cannot please everybody.

As he struggled to make the headline "Gang Horror in Romania" fit over a story about the recent disturbances, 11-year-old Patrick Dunlop was not particularly enthusiastic. When asked whether he enjoyed the newspaper day, he muttered only a lacklustre "It's all right".

Struggles of mature students

Giving up a job to go back to college on a grant is proving too hard for some people

Mature students are being courted by higher education institutions. The idea of older people picking up new qualifications at college and returning to the workplace has also struck a chord with employers who face a skills shortage.

The recruitment of mature students, defined as those over 21 when they get to college, has been going well over the past couple of years. One in seven students starting at university is "mature". Last year in the polytechnics, 14.5 per cent of undergraduates on degree and higher national diploma courses were over 21 on entry and 10.1 per cent were women who had passed that point.

There has been little formal investigation into why mature students fall by the wayside, but finance rates highly.

Karen Phillips, the father of her baby daughter, have combined debts of £14,000 after both have completed their degrees: hers at Sussex, his in Sheffield. The spectre of ever-increasing overdrafts, combined with the substitution of a regular income with a grant of about £3,000 a year, can dampen the staunchest spirit well before a potential student has even seen a campus.

It is not until a student is over 26 that he or she qualifies for mature student status, according to the Department of Education and Science, and thereby becomes eligible for up to £840 on top of the normal grant (awarded according to means) of £2,155 (£2,650 in London) as well as child support and, at the moment, housing benefit.

As Mrs Judith Nisbet, academic secretary at Oxford University's first mature students' college, Manchester, says: "The main problem is that mature students have to undergo a complete change of lifestyle when they come. They may go from owning a house or a flat and having a regular income to living in one room on a grant."

Perhaps less obvious is the social shock of finding oneself among hordes of 18-year olds intent more on having a good time than getting a good degree.

"Young students tend to go wild when they get to college. Mature students tend to study harder and find all the parties in the middle of the night very distracting," Mrs Phillips says. "It meant a lot to me to come here and I really appreciated what being at university had to offer."

While there clearly are generation gaps between older and



younger students which might affect their work, Mrs Nisbet, at Manchester College in the centre of Oxford, is anxious that undergraduates muck-in.

"We do not want to become a mature students enclave — there is a great deal more to being at university than just studying and our students are encouraged to partake fully in the university activities," she says.

The social and economic problems facing the older student naturally flow from the fact that universities, on the whole, are geared to taking people straight from school: a homogeneous group not only used to the company of one another, but to essay writing and taking notes. It is in these "study skills" where mature students tend to come unstuck.

Ms Phillips says that the two close friends she studied with at Sussex and who dropped out, did so because they found that the combined pressure of learning how to cope with academic work and the actual work itself was too much for them.

"At the end of the second year the prospect of producing five essays for assessment plus exams was too much. They left although they were easily capable of getting a degree," she says.

She went to Ruskin College, Oxford, where she prepared for two years for her entry to university, after working as a secretary for six years. It was this foundation which, she found, sustained her through a three-year honours course in history and particularly

a year long gap when she took time off to have her baby daughter.

"We encourage students to get a couple of A levels or take part of an Open University course in order to get started. Exams come very quickly here and without techniques perfected at A level they would be very difficult," Mrs Nisbet says.

Many of the problems facing mature students, such as accommodation and finance, can be overcome if they study part time, either through the Open University or at a college like Birkbeck, part of the University of London. Naturally they meanwhile face the burden of studying and working at the same time which puts them under pressure and often delays the completion of degrees by two or three years.

Yet even Birkbeck, founded in 1823 with the express aim, according to the London University Calendar, to "serve the interests of mature students", has a long way to go in furnishing students with the skills they need to process the information that will be thrown at them as undergraduates.

Paul Catigan, aged 26, is one of the younger students at Birkbeck College and therefore can still remember his school days, yet he says the "main problem in returning to study comes in essay writing and note taking. There was no formal attempt to break me in gently when I arrived. We were expected to write essays from the word go, and as a result lots of students drop out in their first few weeks."

Students leaving courses or failing 1988 (%)

	Students under 21		Students over 21	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
Arts	9.9	8.7	16.7	13.5
Social Studies	9.4	7.7	18.1	16.2
Pure Science	14.2	9.7	25.2	19.4
Applied Science	16.4	13.7	18.7	14.7
Med/Dent/Vet	15.8	13.7	15.2	16.7
Multi Disc	22.5	14.3	29.4	23.2
Total	13.8	9.9	19.8	18.1
Total both sexes	12.2		18.4	

Source: Universities Statistical Record/The Times



Tension mounts as the deadline gets closer: pupils write copy and confer with the editor, John Orrey, at Cross in Hand Primary School

PREVIEW

TODAY Art & Auctions • TUESDAY Theatre & Cabaret • WEDNESDAY Rock, Jazz & World Music • THURSDAY Opera, Dance & Books • FRIDAY Classical Music

The Times Preview features a different area of the arts each day Monday to Friday, as indicated above, including events in the following seven days. Plus the Cinema Guide

ART EXHIBITIONS

David Lee

NEW IN LONDON

BALRAJ KHAMBA: Accomplished paintings by an Indian artist and novelist, whose pictures form a series of intense colour. Festival Hall, South Bank Centre, SE1 (01-821 0631). Daily 10am-10pm, free, until May 29. From today.

MARIO SIRONI: An Italian commercial artist's work for Fiat from 1950-1960 which exploits, at different times, fascist symbolism and modernist imagery. Design Museum, 215 Whitehall, Strand, WC2E (01-493 6833). Tues-Sun 11.30am-6.30pm, £2 (concs £1), until May 13. From Tues.

MASTERS OF THE GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART: Works by tutors, Jack Knox and James Robertson among them, at the school which has produced an outstanding crop of young painters working during the 1980s. Haydon Fine Art, 40 Conduit Street, W1 (01-494 0573). Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, free, until May 4. From Tues.

THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN EXHIBITION: Tableaux, newsreels and the aeroplanes themselves evoking the battle that saved so many, 50 years ago. RAF Museum, Hendon, W5 (01-262 2265). Daily 10am-6pm, £3.50 (concs), until October 31. From Wed.

SUZANNE TREISTER: New paintings, typically post-modernist in their eclectic imagery and abundant references. Elected Teah Gallery, 13 Old Burlington Street, W1 (01-734 0343). Mon-2pm, Tues-Fri 11am-5pm, Sat 11am-1pm, free, until May 5. From Wed.

THE END OF WORDS: Collages and picture poems from 1948-70 inspired by political discontent and artistic anarchy by dissident Czech Jiri Kolár. Institute of Contemporary Arts, The Mall, SW1 (01-300 0483). Daily 12pm-5pm, £1.50, until May 27. From Thurs.

CONTINUING

YOKO ONO: Old and new objects with texts, performance pieces and sound works, all in a conceptual vein. Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, W8 (01-741 2261). Tues-Sun 1-6pm, free, until April 22.

LUCIAN FREUD, FRANK AUERBACH, RICHARD DODGINS: Works by two "old master" painters, some of them acquired recently (and very expensively), and no fewer than 16 sculptures by Turner Prize winner Richard Deacon. Saatchi Collection, 88A Boundary Road, NW6 (01 824 8229). Fri-Sat 12-6pm, free, until November.

JOSEPH WRIGHT OF DERBY (1734-1797): Over 100 paintings depicting

dramatic original scenes of workmen, scientific experiments and more traditional landscapes and portraits. Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1 (01 821 7128). Mon-Sat 10am-5.50pm, Sun 2-5.50pm, £2, until April 22.

EDWARD WADSWORTH (1865-1946): A contemporary exhibition of work by a pioneer British surrealist. Camden Arts Centre, Arkwright Road, NW3 (01-435 2843). Mon-Fri 10.30am-5.30pm, Sat-Sun 1-5pm, free, until April 22.

ERIC RAVILIOUS (1903-1942): Examples of every medium he worked in: ceramics, lithographs, woodcuts, watercolours, fabrics and furniture. Decorative Arts Group, 9 Church Street, NW8 (01-706 2948). Mon-Sat 10am-7pm, free, until May 5.

FAKES THE ART OF DECEPTION: Six hundred objects about the faking of art from all periods, from "wrong" Etruscan sculptures to bogus Holbein's. British Museum, Great Russell Street, WC1 (01-636 1555). Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2.30pm-5pm, £2 (concs), until September 2.

PAINTING IN FOCUS: Winter Landscapes by German Romantic painter Caspar David Friedrich (1774-1840) comes under acute scholarly scrutiny including comparison with other versions. The National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, WC2 (01-638 3321). Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-6pm, free, until May 26.

SOPHIE RYDER: Sculptures and drawings by a modernist artist who fashions her materials from unusual materials such as bedclothes and scraps of wire. Newport Museum and Art Gallery, John Frost Square (0633 84004). Mon-Thurs 9.30am-5pm, Fri 9.30am-3.30pm, Sat 9.30am-4pm, free, until May 18. From today.

THE HOLLOW CONNECTION: Works from 1953-1988 by ex-servicemen and staff of the first vocational British ceramics course, set up at Hollow School of Art, and featuring such luminaries of pottery as Janice Tchamkian, Michael Casson, Sarah Walton and Jane Harvill. Total Gallery, The Friary, Cardiff (0222 565450). Mon-Sat 10am-5.30pm, free, until May 5. From today.

EMBLEMS OF ENCHANTMENT: Figurative paintings with a romantic bent by two members of the Futurist Brotherhood, Graham Arnold and Annie Overton. Silk Top Hat Gallery, 4 Quality Square, Ludlow (0584 5388). Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, free, until May 6. From today.

KEEPERS OF LIGHT: Photographs of dancers and art students by David Ward which claim the all-embracing brief of exploring "the nature of space, scale and the human touch". Cambridge University, Gwydir Street, Cambridge (0223 350783). Tues-Sat 11am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm, free, until May 13. From Tues.

HENRY MOORE: Nine major bronzes shown outdoors, where the sculptor's work frequently looks its best. Pollok Country Park, Glasgow (041 227 5429). Open during Park opening times, free, until October 14. From Thurs.

On Sunday the Royal Court Theatre presents a day of fundraising activities in aid of its Olivier Building Appeal. Act I (midday-4pm): a beaumont of theatrical memorabilia; Act II (6pm): champagne reception, followed by the Royal Court Celebrity Cabaret and the "grand" auction. Items on sale include a shirt worn by Laurence Olivier in the film *Hamlet* (1948) (pictured left), a signed folio edition of *The Lost Ones* by Samuel Beckett with illustrations by Klabane, and Lord Snowdon's famous photograph of Olivier as Archie Rice in *The Entertainer*. Royal Court Theatre, Sloane Square, London SW1 (01-836 2428). Sunday, midday-4pm, £5; 6pm-1pm, £25, £50.

Good paintings at their worst



The first time I saw the paintings of George Baselitz I was convinced that they were the most brazenly inept pictures I'd ever seen. This response would have reassured Baselitz, because this is precisely his aim, to paint badly and to shock by how well he does it. This fashionable and expensive artist returns to London this week with two new series of works, "Ciao America" and "Folk Dance", which continue his famous trademark of upside-down figures and faces. More abstract, though slightly more decorative than formerly, these new pictures are as calculatedly uncouth in execution as we have come to expect. His art belies his own appearance and lifestyle. Photographed, as he frequently is, inside his Saxony castle, sporting bespoke clothes and smoking fat cigars, he epitomizes landed gentry. His art, however, is respectfully anarchic. He has referred to his paintings as "acts of aggression" and he is considered the best of Germany's school of Bad or Wild Painters, presumably because he is the worst. Once described as "marvelously awkward", Baselitz's pictures are instantly recognizable for their provocative challenge and barbarity. Anthony d'Offay Gallery, 9 Dering Street, London W1 (01-499 4100). Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-1pm, free, until May 10.

David Lee

ART FROM HAVANA: Works by six young Cuban painters and sculptors. Aberystwyth Arts Centre, Pongelli (0870 622882). Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, free, until May 13. From Sat.

THE BURGLEY BOOKS: Highlights from the state library's library focusing on 17th and 18th century illustrated botanical and bird books. Burgley House, Stamford, Lincolnshire (0780 52451). Daily 11am-5pm, £2.30 (concs), until October 7. From Fri.

SALES, AUCTIONS, SALES

John Shaw

LONDON

MONEYED MASTERS: Previously unknown classical pictures by Joseph Wadsworth (1658-1688) would take the honours (£500,000-£800,000) followed by a flowerpiece by Rachel Ruych (1684-1750) at £200,000-£300,000. Immediately afterwards is an auction of 16 Dutch and Flemish works belonging to Marquess S. de Bournonville, who has lived in Holland over 30 years. More than £1.2 million expected. Sotheby's, New Bond Street, W1 (01-438 8080). Sale, Wed 10.30am.

WELSH MERCHANDISE: An owner who need not a sculpture making £3.2 million sent a photograph of his garden statue to Sotheby's. Now it is expected to make £200,000-£300,000. The mid-17th century bronze figure of Hercules was bought 20 years ago in an antique market for £150. Sotheby's (see above). Sale, Thurs 11am.

FAMOUS FLORENTINE: Hercules, the title statue of the statue, predicted to bring over £500,000. Probably the best of the surviving casts by Antonio Susini after Giambologna. Christie's, King Street, St James's, SW1 (01-839 8000). Viewing, today 9am-4pm, tomorrow 9am-4pm. Sale, Wed 11am.

FALKLAND FACTOR: The island's flag, flown from Government House, Port Stanley, before the 1982 invasion is expected to make £750. Taken by a Royal Marine commando from a dead Argentinean following British capture of Stanley; evocative trophy in fine metals. Spink & Son, Jermyn Street, St James's, (01-437 3667).

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SW1 (01-830 7888): Viewing, Wed 10am-5pm, Thurs 10.30am.

EUROSCULPTURE: Several classical bronzes below £1,000 and £1,200-£1,800 could be a pleasant windfall for their owners. A fine Ziegler estimated at £4,000-£5,000 sold for £25,300 last month. Sotheby's, Summer's Place, Blandford, Dorset (0428 789353). Sale, today, 10am.

DOLLS DELIGHT: American wooden doll's house which crossed the Atlantic with the late family of the current owner (£200-£1,200). Mixed collection of American and English doll's house furniture. Phillips, Scotland, 65 George Street, Edinburgh (01 225 225). Viewing, Wed, Thurs 9.30am-4.30pm. Sale, Fri 11am.

GREAT WESTERN GLOVES: Hornby Dublo rolling stock and track in GWR, LMS and LNER livery, still wrapped, found during house clearance in Cheltenham. Expected to make much more than the 36 11d price on some of the original boxes. Part of a 500-lot general sale, good Georgian and later furniture. Short Graham & Co, 4-6 Clarence Street, Gloucester (0452 2177). Viewing, today 2pm-5pm and morning of sale from 8.45am. Sale, tomorrow, St Barnabas Church Hall, Stroud Road, 10am.

MYSTERY MALE: Who was Wing Commander C.M.M. Greer? Detailed background apparently unknown to relative selling his 10 medals, including a Battle of Britain pilot's wings and a DFC. Among 350 lots, half of which are pictures. Wheatsden Auction Galleries, Vestry Hall, Cranbrook, Kent (0580 712744). Viewing, today 9.30am onwards. Sale, today 5pm.

STUDIO SALE: Comprehensive sale from studio of Dr William Johnston, influential teacher at Camberwell and the Central School of Arts and Crafts and a leading British modernist (1897-1981). Christie's, 148 St John Street, Glasgow (041 332 6134). Viewing, today 10am-7pm, tomorrow and Wed 10am-5pm. Sale, Thurs 2pm.

OUTSIDE LONDON

DINE IN DERBYSHIRE: Set of six mahogany dining chairs (£1,500-£2,000) in the furniture sale at the Coronation Hall, Osmaston near Ashbourne. Bury and Hilton, 20 Market Place, Ashbourne, Derbyshire (0335 43234). Viewing, tomorrow, Tues 10am-5pm, Wed 10am-2pm. Sale, Thurs 11am.

ZOOING ZIEGLER: Check the label on your carpet. It's a Ziegler, watch this

sale. Two Mahal examples, modestly estimated at £500-£800 and £1,200-£1,800 could be a pleasant windfall for their owners. A fine Ziegler estimated at £4,000-£5,000 sold for £25,300 last month. Sotheby's, Summer's Place, Blandford, Dorset (0428 789353). Sale, today, 10am.

DOLLS DELIGHT: American wooden doll's house which crossed the Atlantic with the late family of the current owner (£200-£1,200). Mixed collection of American and English doll's house furniture. Phillips, Scotland, 65 George Street, Edinburgh (01 225 225). Viewing, Wed, Thurs 9.30am-4.30pm. Sale, Fri 11am.

GREAT WESTERN GLOVES: Hornby Dublo rolling stock and track in GWR, LMS and LNER livery, still wrapped, found during house clearance in Cheltenham. Expected to make much more than the 36 11d price on some of the original boxes. Part of a 500-lot general sale, good Georgian and later furniture. Short Graham & Co, 4-6 Clarence Street, Gloucester (0452 2177). Viewing, today 2pm-5pm and morning of sale from 8.45am. Sale, tomorrow, St Barnabas Church Hall, Stroud Road, 10am.

MYSTERY MALE: Who was Wing Commander C.M.M. Greer? Detailed background apparently unknown to relative selling his 10 medals, including a Battle of Britain pilot's wings and a DFC. Among 350 lots, half of which are pictures. Wheatsden Auction Galleries, Vestry Hall, Cranbrook, Kent (0580 712744). Viewing, today 9.30am onwards. Sale, today 5pm.

STUDIO SALE: Comprehensive sale from studio of Dr William Johnston, influential teacher at Camberwell and the Central School of Arts and Crafts and a leading British modernist (1897-1981). Christie's, 148 St John Street, Glasgow (041 332 6134). Viewing, today 10am-7pm, tomorrow and Wed 10am-5pm. Sale, Thurs 2pm.

OUTSIDE LONDON

DINE IN DERBYSHIRE: Set of six mahogany dining chairs (£1,500-£2,000) in the furniture sale at the Coronation Hall, Osmaston near Ashbourne. Bury and Hilton, 20 Market Place, Ashbourne, Derbyshire (0335 43234). Viewing, tomorrow, Tues 10am-5pm, Wed 10am-2pm. Sale, Thurs 11am.

ZOOING ZIEGLER: Check the label on your carpet. It's a Ziegler, watch this

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's selection of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ♦) on release across the country.

NEW RELEASES

ALL DOGS GO TO HEAVEN (U): Disjointed, unappealing cartoon fantasy about a low-life dog returning from the dead. Camden Parkway (01-267 7034). Mollat Hill Cinema (01-727 6705). Odéon Kensington (01-802 8544/5). Leicester Square (01-930 6111). Swiss Cottage (01-722 5805).

CHICAGO JOE AND THE SHORONOL (PG): Tamed schism of a murderous crime scene in wartime London. Emily Lloyd, Kester Sutherland. Odéon West End (01-930 5252/7615).

COURAGE MOUNTAIN (U): Lame, spurious adventures of Johnnie Spurr's heroine Heidi in World War One. Cannon Cinema (01-353 5086). Cannon Tottenham Court Road (01-430 8148). Cannon Pinner (01-830 0531).

EMILIES, A LOVE STORY (15): Isaac Bashevis Singer's novel about a Holocaust survivor's complicated love life, wittily filmed by Paul Mazursky. Odéon Haymarket (01-639 7687).

LOOK WHO'S TALKING (12): Infamously funny about an unmarried man and his talking baby. John Travolta, Keanu Reeves. Cannon Cinema (01-352 5086). Haymarket (01-639 1527). Odéon West End (01-930 5252/7615). Marble Arch (01-723 2011). Swiss Cottage (01-722 5805). Screen on the Screen (01-226 3523). Warner West End (01-430 0731). Whalley (01-732 3303/3324).

THE RESEARCHERS (U): Disney cartoon from 1977, unashamedly polished between old studio traditions and contemporary urban satire. Cannon Parkway (01-370 2636). Cannon Odéon Street (01-370 2636). Whalley (01-732 3303/3324).

SOCIETY (15): Obscure, zombie-filled horror yarn from Brian Yuse, producer of *From Beyond*. Prince Charles (01-437 8181).

CURRENT

♦ **ALWAYS (PG):** Spielberg's plush, but pointless remake of *A Guy Named Joe*. Cannon Parkway (01-353 5086). Cannon Odéon Street (01-370 2636). Cannon Parkway (01-370 2636). Whalley (01-732 3303/3324).

♦ **DOWN ON THE FOURTH OF JULY (18):** Dynamic anti-Vietnam epic from Oliver Stone, with Tom Cruise excellent as paraplegic Ron Kovic. Balcatta (01-438 8091). Cannon Parkway (01-353 5086). Cannon Odéon Street (01-370 2636). Cannon Parkway (01-370 2636). Whalley (01-732 3303/3324).

♦ **CELESTINE (15):** Powerful Australian portrait of a rebellious child in a restrictive society. Striking debut by director Ann Turner. Cannon Tottenham Court Road (01-430 8148). Metro (01-437 0757).

CINEMA PARADISO (PG): Giuseppe Tornatore's nostalgic tale of a small Sicilian cinema; a hugely appealing salute to the movies. Cannon Mayfair (01-936 8888).

THE CITIZEN (PG): Polymath, gently humorous Algerian tale of a young Arab village forced to migrate. Metro (01-437 0757).

♦ **FORVING MISS DARYL (U):** Jessica Tandy as the prickly Southern lady with a black chauffeur (Morgan Freeman). Accomplished, endearing. Cannon Parkway (01-370 2636).

2886) Minima (01-235 4225). Screen on the Screen (01-226 3523). Warner (01-430 0731). Whalley (01-732 3303/3324).

DUST IN THE WIND: Tribulations of teenagers in the big city, affectionate 1986 film by the Tennessee master Hou Hsiao-hsien. ICA Cinema (01-930 8647).

ENCOUNTER AT HAVERTS GATE (15): Muddled science-fiction from young Australian film makers. Prince Charles (01-437 8181).

♦ **THE FABULOUS BAKER BOYS (15):** Highly diverting fireworks between a blonde singer (Michelle Pfeiffer) and two cocktail pianists (Jeff and Beau Bridges). Cannon Parkway (01-353 5086). Cannon Odéon Street (01-370 2636). Cannon Parkway (01-370 2636). Whalley (01-732 3303/3324).

♦ **GLORY (16):** Edward Zwick's impressionistic salute to the black Americans who fought in the Civil War; powerful performances. Cannon Parkway (01-353 5086).

THE HOUSE OF BERNARDO ALBA (15): Lopez play about a widow and her five daughters; fine acting, but tedious cinema. Pinner (01-430 4470).

JESUS OF MONTREAL (15): Passion Play trouble in Montreal. Olivier but elegant satire from director Denis Arcand. Pinner (01-430 4470). Pinner (01-430 4470).

JUSTMENT IN BERLIN (PG): Out but outdated account of a real-life East German defector. Martin Sheen, Sam Wanamaker. Cannon Tottenham Court Road (01-430 8148).

MY LEFT FOOT (15): The Christy Brown story; uplifting fare, marvellously acted, with Oscar winners Daniel Day-Lewis and Brenda Fricker. Cannon Kensington (01-432 6644/5). Pinner (01-430 4470). Cannon Parkway (01-353 5086). Whalley (01-732 3303/3324).

♦ **SEA OF LOVE (15):** Cop (Al Pacino) and lawyer (Samuel L. Jackson) fall in love. Atmospheric, mummy's best. Cannon West End (01-437 8181). Whalley (01-732 3303/3324).

A SHORT FILM ABOUT LOVE (U): Krzysztof Kestowicz's powerful and eerie tale of voyeurism and sexual failure. Pinner (01-430 4470). Sale (01-727 4043).

ITAPLESS (15): David Hare's intriguing drama about love, betrayal, and political activism. Cannon West End (01-437 8181).

♦ **TANGO AND CASH (15):** Propaganda thriller with Sylvester Stallone and Kurt Russell as cops out to ruin crime boss Jack Woltz. Cannon Parkway (01-353 5086). Cannon Odéon Street (01-370 2636). Cannon Parkway (01-370 2636). Whalley (01-732 3303/3324). Warner West End (01-430 0731).

♦ **TROP BELLE POUR TOI (18):** Gérard Depardieu toys between his wife and mistress. Sifted satire on marital mores from Bertrand Blier. Cannon Parkway (01-353 5086). Cannon Odéon Street (01-370 2636). Cannon Parkway (01-370 2636). Whalley (01-732 3303/3324). Warner West End (01-430 0731).

♦ **THE WAR OF THE ROSES (18):** A perfect marriage and domestic violence. Exhausting black comedy, with Michael Douglas and Kathleen Turner. Cannon Parkway (01-353 5086). Cannon Odéon Street (01-370 2636). Cannon Parkway (01-370 2636). Whalley (01-732 3303/3324). Warner West End (01-430 0731).

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2148

ACROSS

- 1 Give account (8)
- 2 Solid (4)
- 3 Dismissal disorder (7)
- 4 Rap (5)
- 5 Colour bar ending (13)
- 6 Smelling style (5)
- 7 Chingings (5)
- 8 39 Steps hero (7,6)
- 9 Bid (5)
- 10 Asia camel country (7)
- 11 French shoe (4)
- 12 Sure thing (4,4)



DOWN

- 1 Phunged (5)
- 2 Types (5)
- 3 Water deity (4,3)
- 4 Naturally decomposable (13)
- 5 Piano keyboard (7)
- 6 Potential (7)
- 7 Ladies' fingers (4)
- 8 Somers/Devon river (3)
- 9 In extremis (3,4)
- 10 Diplomatic (7)
- 11 Risked (7)
- 12 Strudled leaf beverage (3)
- 13 Spacious (4)
- 14 Care for (5)
- 15 Rising act (5)

ENTERTAINMENTS

OPERA & BALLET

COLOMBUS 836 3161 cc 240 379 4444 5588
THE KIROV BALLET
 6 June - 7 July
COLOMBUS 836 3161 cc 240 379 4444 5588
 6 June - 7 July
ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 240 379 4444 5588
 6 June - 7 July
ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 240 379 4444 5588
 6 June - 7 July

THEATRE

APOLLO VICTORIA 836 3161 cc 240 379 4444 5588
 6 June - 7 July
APOLLO VICTORIA 836 3161 cc 240 379 4444 5588
 6 June - 7 July
APOLLO VICTORIA 836 3161 cc 240 379 4444 5588
 6 June - 7 July

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 22

CRUMEN (b) The subnormal gland in deer and antelope, secreting a waxy substance, from the Latin *crumen* a pore. ♦ There is no subnormal gland or crumen in a mole. ♦

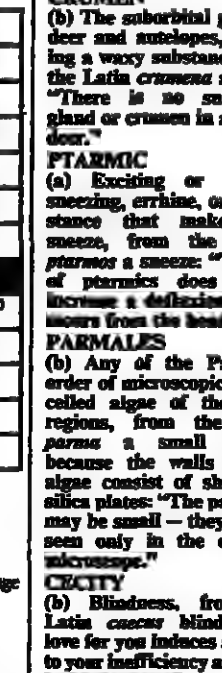
FTAIKIC (a) Exciting or causing sneezing, sneezing, or a substance that makes you sneeze, from the Greek *ftaikic* a sneeze. ♦ The use of ftaike is more to increase a definition of sneezing than to sneeze. ♦

PARMALES (b) Any of the Parmales order of microscopic single-celled algae of the polar regions, from the Latin *parma* a small shield, because the walls of the alga are like a shield. ♦ The Parmales are small - they can be seen only in the electron microscope. ♦

CELESTINE (a) Blisses, from the Latin *celestine* a bliss. ♦ My love for you induces a ecstasy to your inefficiency and your bad behaviour. ♦

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent



Today's position is from the game Smyslov (White) - Martynov (Black), Groningen 1960. How did ex-world Champion Smyslov force Black's resignation? Solution in tomorrow's Times.

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TELEVISION & RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear
and Gillian MaxeyStemming
the nuclear
tide

Peter Waymark

James Cutler of Yorkshire Television has made a name for himself with a series of glove-off documentaries on the links between radioactive plutonium and leukaemia. He returns to the attack in *Sellafield: The Contaminated Coast* (Channel 4, 9.00pm), suggesting that despite the plant's attempt to improve its image by reducing discharges into the sea and mounting an expensive public relations campaign, there is still much cause for alarm. If many of the facts and arguments are familiar, Cutler manages to bring them up fresh. It is startling to be told that Sellafield has the worst safety record of any nuclear plant in the world apart from Chernobyl. And the fact that British Nuclear Fuels has already paid out £500,000 compensation in cancer cases involving the Sellafield workforce implies that all is not exactly well. The film claims to present new evidence that nuclear waste dumped into the sea has spread around the coast and that contamination is moving inland.



Testing for contamination along Sellafield's coast (Ch4, 9.00pm)

With the Hubble space telescope due to be launched from Cape Kennedy tomorrow morning, *Horizon* (BBC2, 8.10pm) fills in the background to a project that has been more than 40 years in the making, bedevilled by delays and spiralling costs, and which could be the biggest step forward in astronomy since Galileo's telescope of 1609. With the ability to see 10 times more clearly than any existing ground-based telescope, the Hubble has the potential to report back on the origins of galaxies, investigate black holes and throw new light on the size, age and fate of the universe. And bits of it were made in Britain.

Valentino Harris, the genial presenter of *Italian Regional Cookery* (BBC2, 7.25pm), does not try to oversell her wares. "Tuscan food," she declares, "could never be accused of subtlety." I cannot say my mouth watered at the sight of her fish stew or oxtail cooked with celery, although they made a change from pizza and pasta. The series promises to be stronger on local colour than systematic instruction and those wanting essential facts such as quantities and cooking times will have to fend for the fact sheet.

Fun and Games (ITV, 5.10pm) is back, with the jolly Rob Buckman and Celia Hoyle playing once more that maths can be fun. But it is curious that a show going out in the children's slot should have no children taking part.

8.00 *Pages from Casio*.
8.30 *Mother Teresa*. Mother Teresa of Calcutta with a hospitality prayer for Holy Week.
9.30 *BBC Breakfast News* presented by Nicholas Witchell and Fiona Foster. Includes regular national and international news, business reports, sports bulletins, regional news, weather and travel information. Paul Cullen reviews the morning newspapers. **9.55** *Regional news and weather*.
9.55 *News and weather* followed by *Children's BBC Egg*. *Shogun* introduced by Simon Pankin and Andi Peters. Begins with *Healthcare with Cats and Co.* Cartoon adventures of an alley-cat (r) **10.25** *Why Don't You...?* A new children's adventure series. **10.55** *Poddington Press* (r).
10.55 *News and weather* followed by *The New Padd and Barney Stone*. Flintstone cartoon. **10.30** *Playdays* (r).
10.55 *Mother Teresa* with a prayer for the day.
11.00 *News and weather* followed by *Open Air*. Presenters Eamonn Holmes and Gloria Hunniford examine the way television treats disaster victims.
12.00 *News and weather* followed by *Daytime Live*. Presented by Andy Craig, Sue Cook and Tina Baker. **12.45** *Regional news and weather*.
1.00 *One O'Clock News* with John Humphrys. **1.30** *Neighbours*. Suburban Oz soap. (Contax) **1.50** *Turnabout*. Rob Curling presents the word quiz. **2.15** *The Secret of the Matter*. Harmless humour about an all-but-robot human. Starring Les Majors. **2.30** *Bazaar*. Today's programme offers ways of "going green" and reveals some tips for growing top tomatoes. Meanwhile, Clare Corry conjures up a quick meal and Jan Beany makes some fashionable footwear. **3.30** *Savannah* (r) **3.55** *Seoria* (r).
4.10 *The Quick Chat Show*. Fun and games with puppeteer Keith Harris (r) **4.35** *BraveStance*. Cartoon adventures of the galaxy's bravest marshal.
4.55 *Newsround* **5.05** *Blue Peter*. The Blue Peter team is out in the garden, planting some space-age tomatoes, seeds which have spent more than five years orbiting the Earth on an American spacecraft. (Contax)
5.35 *Neighbours* (r). (Contax)
6.00 *Six O'Clock News* with Andrew Harvey and Mollie Stuart. **6.30** *Regional News*.
7.00 *Woman with Michael Ball*. American game show host Pat Sajak and Jodie Foster. **7.35** *East of Ed*. Another look at the cinematic successes of ITC. This week, the programme explores the film versions of best-selling novels, including clips from *A Tale of Two Cities*, *The Man in Iron Mask* and *Jesus of Nazareth*.
8.00 *In Sickness and in Health*. Warren Mitchell stars as the East End bigot Alf Garnett in this hit comedy. Tonight, Alf and his fiancée Mrs Hollingberry set off for Australia to meet her wealthy brother (r). (Contax)
8.30 *Just a Minute*. In this week's episode of Don Weir's smooth domestic comedy househusband Peter Egan is thrust into when he is given a job as head of an advisory board. However, with Hannah Gordon, he soon discovers the fact that he did not win his job on merit alone. (Contax)
9.00 *Five O'Clock News* with Michael Suer. **9.30** *Regional news and weather*.
9.55 *News and weather*.
10.00 *News and weather*.
10.55 *Mother Teresa* with a prayer for the day.
11.00 *News and weather*.
11.55 *Mother Teresa* with a prayer for the day.
12.00 *Weather*.

8.00 *TV-am* begins with *News* and *Good Morning Britain* presented by Linda Mitchell and, at 7.00, by Mike Morris and Lorraine Kelly. With news at 8.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30. **8.50** *Wacday* for the young, presented by Timmy Mallet.
9.25 *Cross With*. The first of a new series of the crossword quiz game presented by Tom O'Connor. **9.55** *Thames News* and weather. **10.00** *Out of This World*. Episode one of a new children's series about an American teenage girl whose father happens to be an alien. **10.40** *This Morning*. Magazine series presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley. Today's edition includes feature on astrology, gardening and fashion. **10.55** *Regional and international news* at 10.55 followed by national weather. **12.10** *Playbox*. For the young, presented by Pat Coombs and Keith Chapman. **12.30** *News* and weather. **1.00** *News at One* with John Suchet. **1.30** *Thames News* and weather. **1.50** *Hollywood Sports*. Glossy soap set in California gym. **2.00** *Film: 36 Hours* (1954, b/w) starring Dan Duryea as an American pilot given 36 hours to search for his missing English wife. Directed by Montgomery Tully. **2.30** *News* and weather. **3.30** *The Young Doctors*. Australian medical drama series. **4.00** *Neighbours*. Suburban Oz soap. **4.30** *Seoria* (r). **4.55** *Seoria* (r). **5.05** *Seoria* (r). **5.30** *Seoria* (r). **5.55** *Seoria* (r). **6.00** *Home and Away* (r). **6.30** *Thames News* and weather. **7.00** *Just for Laughs*. A compilation of clips from classic British comedies. **7.30** *Coronation Street*. Another dose of drama, intrigue and infidelity involving the residents of Coronation Street. (Teletext) **8.00** *Strike It Lucky*. Quiz game show hosted by Michael Barrymore. **8.30** *World in Action: A Safe Habit*. A documentary about the British system of dog waste disposal which is admitted throughout the world. **9.00** *The Labours of Eric*. Whimsical comedy series starring Brenda Blethyn as a middle-aged widow being pursued by two suitors. **9.30** *Stand Up Jim Davidson*. Another hour of Jim's hour of so-called adult comedy. **10.00** *News at Ten* with Alastair Burnet and Trevor McDonald. **10.30** *Thames News* and weather. **10.55** *News and weather*. **11.00** *News and weather*. **11.55** *Mother Teresa* with a prayer for the day. **12.00** *Weather*.

8.40 *Flash Gordon* (b/w) (r).
9.55 *Film: The Saint's Vacation* (1941, b/w). Hugh Sinclair stars in this adaptation of Leslie Charteris's novel *Gayaway*, in which Simon Templar does anything but. Directed by Leslie Fenton.
10.55 *Film: Irene* (1940, b/w) starring Anna Neagle and Ray Milland. This first of a short season of films directed by Herbert Wilcox is a somewhat odd version of James H. Montgomery's play about a New York Irish social girl who moves into high society.
12.30 *Film: Instruction Christmas Lectures* (r).
1.30 *Green Glaze* (r) **1.35** *Better Than Green*. Chas (renovation) (r).
2.00 *News and weather* followed by *Songs of Praise* (r). (Contax) **2.35** *Chester's Grandfather* **2.50** *Behind the Screen* of the soon-to-be seen series *The Ten Commandments*.
3.00 *News and weather* followed by *The Lawless Land*. *East of Ed*. *Kingdom of Zanzibar* (r) **3.30** *News*, regional news and weather. **4.00** *Film: Snooker* with Dennis Taylor. **4.30** *Film: With Jim Sessions*. **5.00** *Film: Days of Glory* (1944, b/w). Gregory Peck made his film debut in this tale of how a group of Russian freedom fighters rescue Nina, a dancer stranded behind the German lines during the Second World War. Directed by Jacques Tourneur. **5.35** *DEF* (r) begins with *Music from Ireland* **5.55** *Computer Dreams*. **7.25** *Film: Regional Cookery* (see Choice). **7.55** *Film: Easter*. A new series which shows individuals whose lives have been affected by the social, political and English changes in Eastern Europe. **8.10** *Horizon: The Sharpest Show of the Universe* (see Choice). **8.30** *Film: I Was a Living Man* (1965, r). **9.00** *Just for Laughs*. A compilation of clips from classic British comedies. **9.30** *Coronation Street*. Another dose of drama, intrigue and infidelity involving the residents of Coronation Street. (Teletext) **8.00** *Strike It Lucky*. Quiz game show hosted by Michael Barrymore. **8.30** *World in Action: A Safe Habit*. A documentary about the British system of dog waste disposal which is admitted throughout the world. **9.00** *The Labours of Eric*. Whimsical comedy series starring Brenda Blethyn as a middle-aged widow being pursued by two suitors. **9.30** *Stand Up Jim Davidson*. Another hour of Jim's hour of so-called adult comedy. **10.00** *News at Ten* with Alastair Burnet and Trevor McDonald. **10.30** *Thames News* and weather. **10.55** *News and weather*. **11.00** *News and weather*. **11.55** *Mother Teresa* with a prayer for the day. **12.00** *Weather*.

8.00 *The Channel Four Daily*.
9.25 *The Art of Landscape*. Film of spectacular landscapes, accompanied by classical or modern music.
11.00 *As It Happens*. Michael Groth films behind the scenes at London Zoo.
12.00 *Time To Remember* (b/w). The story of the Dunkirk evacuation (r).
12.30 *Business Daily*.
1.00 *Seaside Street*.
2.00 *Interviewing*. Part four - grievance and disciplinary (r). (Teletext)
2.30 *Animation on 4: Academy Leader*. A collaboration between international animators.
2.35 *Film: A Place of One's Own* (1944, b/w) starring Margaret Lockwood, Barbara Stanwyck and James Mason. Atmospheric ghost story based on the novel by Osbert Sitwell. Directed by Bernard Knowles. (Teletext)
4.20 *Animation on 4: The Day I Gave Up Smoking*. Nedelko Dragich animates this classic cartoon.
4.30 *Reflection*.
5.00 *The Late Late Show*. Dublin's topical music and chat show. **5.30** *Some Differences*. Magazine series on disabled matters. **6.30** *Happy Days*. High school comedy. **7.00** *Channel 4 News* with Jon Snow and Zainab Badawi. **7.50** *Comment* followed by *Weather*. **8.00** *Brookside*. Merseyside soap. **8.30** *Desmond's*. Comedy set in a Peckham barber's. (Teletext)
9.00 *Cutting Edge: Sellafield* - The contaminated Coast. (Teletext) (see Choice).
10.00 *Europe: Honey of the Night*. Gripping Swiss film about a policeman trailing the killer of a top chef's wife. English subtitles. **11.00** *Women Call the Shots: I Am an Oz, I Am a Horse, I Am a Man, I Am a Woman*. A film revealing how the leading female figures in Russian made-for-television real-life drama, starring Lindsay Wagner as a woman fighting for her life on Death Row after being convicted of murder. A tale of the media of the film that won Susan Hayward an Oscar. Directed by David Lowell Rich. (Contax)
10.30 *Newsnight*.
11.15 *The Late Late Show* **11.35** *Weather*.
12.00 *Open University: The Arts*. Foundation Course. Ends **12.30am**.

8.00am *International Business Report*.
**8.30am *European Business Channel*.
**9.00am *Panel Post*.
**9.30am *The New Price is Right*.
**10.00am *The Young Doctors*.
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MONDAY APRIL 9 1990

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● SPORT 30-38

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6385 (-0.0075)

W German mark
2.7773 (-0.0013)

Exchange index
87.5 (-0.4)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1740.2 (-28.5)

FT-SE 100
2221.1 (-26.8)

USM (Datastream)
141.29 (-0.89)

Hopes of victory at Laing

LAING Properties is confident it will narrowly escape the clutches of Pall Mall Properties, the joint venture between P&O and Chelsfield, whose 72.5p-a-share cash bid closes at 1pm this Thursday, Mr Brian Chilver, the chairman, said.

Pall Mall now holds about 41 per cent of Laing after buying another 10 per cent in the market on Friday, but Mr Chilver said Laing, which considers 46 per cent of its equity is in "friendly hands," must convince holders of just 2 per cent more of the equity to thwart the £480 million bid. But with 53 per cent of Laing's convertible shares, which convert in May, Pall Mall could eventually win even if it fails on Thursday to get the required 50.1 per cent. *Times, page 24*

Ex-Halfords chief will join Isopad

Mr Ian Staples, the Halfords managing director who resigned from Boots last week wiping £43 million off its market capitalization, is to join Isopad International, the control equipment maker, as chief executive.

Mr Staples, credited with turning Halfords under Ward White from a 1983 loss-maker to a success with pre-tax profits of £25.6 million in 1989, was head-hunted by Mr Brian McGowan, Isopad's non-executive chairman. Isopad went to the market via a placing two years ago valuing it at £13.6 million. At 170p it is capitalized at £18.5 million. Pre-tax profits for the year to January 1989 were £2.5 million on a turnover of £13.3 million.

Forgings ahead

Deliveries by the British forges industry to commercial vehicle makers in the last quarter of 1989 slid 23 per cent against 1988. But deliveries to car makers were up 17 per cent and the industry overall ended up with total growth of 3.8 per cent.

Banks to profit

Bank Hapoalim, Israel's largest bank, earned a net profit of \$46 million last year after a loss of \$32 million in 1988. Bank Leumi, Israel's second largest bank, earned a 1989 net profit of \$78 million (\$124,000 loss).

First for Killik

Killik & Co, the private client broker, today becomes Britain's first firm to be allowed to change its method of settlement. It will transfer responsibility for settlement, including the handling of client money, to Soclear, its settling agent, a subsidiary of Société Générale, the French bank.

Shearson settles

Shearson Lehman Hutton, the US broker, and Shearson Lehman Hutton Commodities, its British arm, have settled claims against the former administrators of the London Metal Exchange over their actions after the 1985 collapse of the International Tin Council.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.345	2.395
Austria Sch	30.50	31.50
Belgium Fr	60.50	62.50
Canada S	1.68	1.78
Denmark Kr	11.18	11.48
France Fr	6.30	6.50
Germany DM	9.77	9.77
Italy Lit	275.50	281.50
Hong Kong S	13.42	13.52
Japan Yen	120.10	122.10
Netherlands Gld	2140	2170
Portugal Esc	200.48	204.48
Spain Ptas	166.37	169.37
Sweden Kr	10.50	10.80
Switzerland Fr	2.555	2.605
Turkey Lira	4500	3500
USA \$	1.72	1.82
Yugoslavia Dnr	Ref	Ref

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.
Retail Price Index: 120.2 (February)

Out of the rubble: bright future for property market



Building up confidence: Canary Wharf, in London's Docklands, developed by Olympia & York, the leading shareholder in Rosehaugh

A WALL of money will hit the British property market over the next year from the United States pension fund industry, according to Mr John Beckwith, the chairman of London & Edinburgh Trust.

Those funds are looking to dump capital into Europe, and they have large amounts of money at their disposal, he believes.

Mr Beckwith, like many of his competitors in the property business, has been spending much time in New York recently, getting to know those with the funds.

According to him, 21 of the world's largest 23 pension funds are American, and he argues that they will move in to fill the investment vacuum left as the British funds retreat to the property sidelines.

London, he says, will be the financial capital of Europe, because no other city has the skills and expertise. The property business will get over its current difficulties.

To the right of Mr Beckwith at the lunch at which he made his remarks was Mr Staffan Elmgren, a director of SPP, the largest pension fund in

Sweden, which has just made an agreed half-billion-pound bid for LET. If confidence-boosting was required, then Mr Beckwith provided it.

In turn, Mr Elmgren said SPP was loaded with cash, and that LET — the perfect partner, he said — would provide the conduit to pipe the money throughout Europe.

Also in the property sector, Olympia & York, developer of Canary Wharf, has emerged as the leading shareholder in Rosehaugh, the development group headed by Mr Godfrey Bradman, with 8 per cent. Weekend reports suggested the Canadians might raise their stake to 15 per cent.

Meanwhile, Pall Mall came closer to buying control of Laing Properties and Ham-merson is thought to fear a re-run of the bid from Rodamco.

This bid activity is happening when the property market is in a sharp downswing. Analysts believe companies such as LET and Rosehaugh, with extensive development programmes, are wise to welcome powerful sponsors.

Reporting this week, page 26

G7 chiefs pledge to fight yen's fall

From Rodney Lord, Economics Editor, Paris

THE world's most powerful central banks resolved at the weekend to resist an "undesirable" decline in the yen and reaffirmed their commitment to co-operate in co-ordinating economic policy.

The finance ministers and central bank governors of the Group of Seven largest industrialized economies issued a statement in Paris making clear their determination to resist a further decline in the Japanese currency.

The statement said: "The ministers and governors discussed developments in global financial markets, especially the decline of the yen against other currencies, and its undesirable consequences for the global adjustment process, and agreed to keep these developments under review. 'They reaffirmed their commitment to economic policy co-ordination, including co-operation in exchange markets.'"

After the meeting, Mr John Major, the Chancellor, indicated that there had been little or no attempt to encourage Japan to make its own contribution to propping up the yen by raising its interest rates again. He said there was "no express pressure" for interest rate rises among the G7 countries.

The chairman of the meeting, M Pierre Berégovoy, the French finance minister, indicated that the group hoped its declaration of intent would

also help to stabilize the Japanese stock market.

The G7's renewed agreement on exchange market co-operation follows the progress made last week on the Strategic Impediments Initiative on trade issues between the US and Japan.

Acquiescence on central bank support for the yen by the US is believed to have been linked partly to progress in opening Japanese markets to foreign competition.

Reviewing the world economy, the G7 ministers and governors noted that a good deal of progress had already been made in reducing trade imbalances. Support for the yen is designed to avoid endangering this.

The International Monetary Fund's managing director, Mr Michel Camdessus, participated in the economic surveillance discussion. New forecasts from the fund show growth a little slower than the 2.9 per cent average for industrialized countries in 1990 in its last set of forecasts in September.

They show inflation a little higher than the previous estimate of 3.9 per cent.

But the statement said of the G7 economies: "Overall growth prospects remain good, with strong investment providing a major stimulus to their economies, inflation remains contained and external imbalances have been reduced although unevenly."

A stronger theme than hith-



Major: no pressure

erto in the discussions was the need to encourage private-sector savings.

Countries with fiscal and current account deficits — diplomatic shorthand for the US, Canada and Britain — needed to reduce budget deficits and increase private savings, it was agreed.

Countries with external surpluses — West Germany and Japan — received the ritual exhortation to promote non-inflationary growth in domestic demand through both macro-economic and structural policies.

In addition, the world shortage of savings, to which Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the Governor of the Bank of England, referred recently in evidence to the Treasury Select Committee, and it was agreed that "savings should be

promoted in all countries through the use of appropriate structural policies."

In this connection, the measures in the Budget were discussed with some interest.

Herr Theo Waigel, the German finance minister, briefed the other G7 members over lunch on the prospects for German economic and monetary union.

But he did not indicate the likely terms for conversion of East German marks into Deutschmarks.

He repeated the pledge that German monetary union would not mean tax increases in Germany.

West Germany had already been subsidizing East Germany substantially, and strong growth would boost revenue.

He expected the German economy to grow by 3½ to 4 per cent this year with a "very favourable" prospect for 1991 as well.

The current account surplus, which was already diminishing, would fall further.

The G7 meeting began with a discussion of the proposed increase in quotas (subscriptions) to the International Monetary Fund.

Mr Major said that Britain "could certainly live with the consensus of an increase in the region of 46 per cent to 51 per cent, which seems to be emerging, though we would prefer a smaller increase."

Economic view, page 25

SocGen to face action over £21m Astra buy

By Melinda Wittstock

ASTRA Holdings, the troubled munitions and pyrotechnics manufacturer whose former chief executive is at the centre of an inquiry into "contractual irregularities" by Ministry of Defence fraud detectives, is to sue Société Générale de Belgique for damages relating to its ill-fated £21.5 million acquisition last September of PRB, the Belgian ammunition maker.

Astra's lawyers have yet to quantify the claim, but Mr Roy Barber, the new chairman, said Astra's former management had asked La Générale for £21 million last December.

The company, which will fall into "substantial losses" for the year to end-March, says PRB's financial position is "materially worse" than represented to the previous Astra management before it acquired the company.

It claims Gechem, La Générale's offshoot from which Astra bought PRB, was aware of problems before the deal was finalized. Gechem counters that Astra had the opportunity but failed to complete a more thorough investigation. Astra said its former management was led to believe PRB would make pre-tax profits of £2 million in 1989; but it lost £12 million.

Government poll slump may force up power yields

By Martin Waller

IN the light of the Government's poor poll ratings, City analysts believe yields on electricity distribution companies might have to be pushed up to double figures if the issues are to get off the ground this autumn.

The City is wary of drawing too close an analogy with the water float last autumn. But the parallel is being drawn, not least by market-makers who are concerned that institutional holders may switch from water shares to the 12 distributors or distcos, if the yield difference is too great.

Water shares were drifting off last week, with the part-paid package of all 10 area boards losing almost £1 to 1.440p by Friday's close. As continued political uncertainty took its toll, the package is now offering a yield of 7.1 per cent, regarded as attractive by water analysts.

But the uncertainty factor means investors in the distcos, the first chunk of the power industry set to come into public hands, will require rather better than this. The long-term rate of return (initial yield plus expected dividend growth) offered to long-term investors in water shares when they were floated was about 13 per cent.

"The more unpopular the

Government is, the greater the risk to the institutions," said Mr John Wilson, electricity analyst at UBS Phillips & Drew. "It's a very, very uncertain future, so one has to expect a return to investors of greater than 13 per cent."

The Government's own models suggest dividend growth of 4 per cent, requiring a yield on the newly-privatized distcos of 9 per cent to match water. But the greater risk would suggest double-figure yields.

This would inevitably trigger claims from the Opposition that the industry was being sold too cheaply.

"This privatization, I believe, is going to be very, very tightly priced — they aren't going to expect it to shoot to a premium on a partly-paid basis of 60 per cent," said Mr Wilson.

The decision last week to allow the two big generators, PowerGen and National Power, to drop £800 million of a planned £2 billion programme to cut sulphur dioxide emissions will also make them more attractive to the investors.

But Mr Wilson believed the Government was merely bowing to the inevitable, rather than fattening up the industry for the float.

Markets ready to test policy

By Colin Nairnrough, Economics Correspondent

THE foreign exchange market will today test whether the Group of Seven finance ministers' weekend words of concern over the yen will be translated into serious support for the sagging Japanese currency.

The G7 communiqué's mention of the "undesirable consequences" of the weak yen, and of "keeping developments under review", left many economists with the impression that Japan cannot rely on other countries in the group to throw their huge currency reserves at the yen problem for long.

If this proves to be the case, Tokyo will have to face up to raising its domestic interest rates — a move it has sought to avoid while its stock market remains in a state of severe

nerves after its recent dramatic slide.

Mr Neil McKinnon, chief economist at Yamachi International, the Japanese securities house, saw the G7 statement failing to address the real problem — the need for Japan to act aggressively on monetary policy.

"The communiqué was very much tea and sympathy for Japan — not a sustainable strategy," he said, pointing out that Japan's G7 partners have made clear that they have no intention of coming to Tokyo's rescue by lowering their own interest rates.

Indeed, West Germany is expected to raise its interest rates soon to curb inflationary pressures arising from its booming domestic economy and the planned monetary

union with East Germany. Given their disinclination to alter interest rate differentials, the G7 countries are going to have to spend a "lot of money" if they intend to push the yen higher, Miss Christine Mandell, a currency analyst at Security Pacific Bank, pointed out.

The dollar closed in New York on Friday at 157.70 yen, after climbing to a three-year high against the Japanese currency and breaching the psychologically important 160 yen barrier earlier in the week.

Central bank efforts to stem the yen's fall from its 146.50 level at the start of this year have been costly and ineffective.

Mr Stephen King, international economist at James Capel, the stockbroker, drew

attention to the absence of guidance from the G7 on what it planned to do for the yen, apart from "possibly a slight hint that we might see stepped-up intervention in the next few days."

But failure to act in support of the yen after having drawn attention to the problem would be strange, he suggested.

Previous bouts of co-ordinated intervention have seen the central banks spend large amounts of their reserves in targeted assaults, aimed more at reinforcing a market trend than setting one.

Large-scale intervention is not being ruled out, especially by the United States and Japan, whose bi-lateral trade imbalance is worsened by yen weakness.

Turtles turn the tide in burger wars

From Philip Robinson
Los Angeles

GRAND Metropolitan's Burger King restaurant chain is making millions from a new cult film breaking US box office records whose stars are four green turtles.

The film, *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*, features characters played by actors in green rubber suits and its merchandising is expected to generate just short of \$1 billion this year.

Burger King is expected to make at least \$25 million of that. The GrandMet subsidiary, America's largest hamburger chain after McDonald's, is offering a 22-minute video containing four episodes of the turtle superheroes for \$3.49 with any purchase of meals or fizzy drinks, for the next three weeks.

A Burger King spokesman said: "We

are selling 200,000 of these videos a day. 'We expect to sell seven million.'"

The promotion is the second part of a turtle campaign designed to transform Burger King's 5,400 fast food restaurants throughout America into a leading force in the lucrative children's meal market.

"They told us it was a million to one that we could crack this market, but we've just signed our millionth member to the Kids Club, which is free and gives the kids posters, newsletters and badges."

"Franchisees are reporting they are seeing more kids back in the restaurants than ever, our kids' meals have gone up 100 per cent on a year ago and we have just had the best January to March quarter in three years," she added.

The four turtle characters — Leonardo, Raphael, Michelangelo and Donatello —

were created in 1983 for a black and white comic book, developed into a television series, and then made into a film on which a sequel has already begun.

The turtles became human-sized heroes with supernatural powers after a radioactive waste was poured down a manhole in which they had been thrown.

Mr Mark Freedman, president of Surge Licensing which holds most of the merchandising rights to the turtles, says they are popular with children because they have an offbeat sense of humour — and parents don't understand them.

The film is expected to break more box office records this week by becoming the first to make more than \$50 million in two weeks out of the traditionally profitable summer and holiday seasons.

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In short, it's a mortgage that's ideal whether you're moving house, or simply wanting to cut your current payments.

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TEMPUS

Pall Mall opportunity knocks for shareholders in Laing Properties

LAING Properties has waged a doughty battle against the combined onslaught of Sir Jeffrey Sterling's P&O and Mr Elliott Bernard's Chelsfield. But then so did Hammerson Properties when it defeated the bid from Rodamco over a year ago. But for Hammerson's shareholders it was a Pyrrhic victory.

Hammerson's management furiously resisted the £10.17 a share bid and emerged unscathed because the bidder was not prepared to match the £10.65 a share asset valuation put on Hammerson's assets.

Having traded at 926p before the bid failed, Hammerson's A shares fell to about 800p. In the year since the dust settled, they slithered to 700p and now stand at 725p.

Holders of shares in Laing Properties will doubtless be considering this cautionary tale as they decide which way to vote before Thursday's final closing date. The P&O/Chelsfield bid via Pall Mall Properties, an off-the-shelf company, is nothing near as close to a full asset valuation as was Hammerson's.

At 725p, it stands at a 20 per cent discount compared with the 4 per cent of Rodamco's terms. Partly for this reason, Laing's followers have been suggesting that if the bid failed, the hostile potential in Pall Mall's sizeable minority holding would prevent a collapse in the price.

But times have changed. Bargain hunters in the property sector can now take their pick of shares trading at discounts to net asset value well above 40 per cent.

There is little reason to suppose that Laing shares would show a discount of less than 30 per cent, suggesting a sub-500p price against today's 690p. Such considerations may have weighed heavily in Standard Life decision to part with its Laing shares at an early stage. In portfolio terms, it paid a painful price for sticking with Hammerson.

On Friday, there were signs of defection among even Laing's closest shareholders. Two of the family trusts, together accounting for 5 per cent of the shares, decided to sell half to Pall Mall. Their decision will make it more difficult for the other family trustees to resist at least a partial sale.

Wavering Laing investors should accept Pall Mall's terms. The cash offer may be at a significant discount but it



is actually at a small premium to the 910p asset value less 207p a share gains tax liability.

The bid presents too good an opportunity to take cash and reinvest the proceeds at far better value than Laing shares offer. There are signs that the property sector may be near the bottom of the present interest rate cycle.

Land Securities and MEPC, selling on 40 per cent discounts, are both safe and when interest rates begin to subside, highly profitable too.

Argos

Few chief executives taking their company to the stock market would venture the opinion that the shares had opened a little on the high side. But Dr Mike Smith, of Argos, is not an average chief executive. And unlike many directors of companies making a stock market debut, he is not set to make a killing on his modest 5,470 shares.

Argos shares opened at 204p on Friday and closed at 202p, valuing the group at about £600 million. This makes it one of Britain's six biggest retail groups.

Assuming the group makes pre-tax profits of £71 million this year, the shares are trading on a p/e ratio of 13.1, which is akin to the rating of Marks and Spencer, Britain's biggest and best-loved retailer.

Argos, in line with M&S, is one of the few unbroken growth stories in the retail sector and is seen as the best alternative defensive stock to M&S. But, while it does deserve a premium rating to the rest of the sector, it does not deserve to be at a premium to M&S. Argos is a more seasonally-biased business than M&S and has less ability to squeeze suppliers.

But Argos certainly lives up to its Greek name and shuns



Winning the battle: Sir Jeffrey Sterling, of P&O, a partner in the bid for Laing

in comparison to most other retail groups. Its strong management team, low cost ratios, unengaged balance sheet and high market shares in key product areas are the envy of struggling retailers.

The shares are likely to drift downwards in the next few weeks as small shareholders take advantage of the free dealing service to sell their holdings of 500 shares or less.

Takeover speculation could fuel the shares but while there are retailers who would love to buy Argos, few can afford to do so. Fewer still can argue that they could run the business better than it is at present.

Shareholders should not expect much improvement in the shares in the short term but in the longer term they are likely to be well rewarded.

Trusts

The investment trust industry's drive to find capital structures which will avoid shares trading at a discount to their underlying portfolio has produced some ingenious financial engineering.

Mr Ian Henderson, an experienced institutional investment manager who specializes in one of the variants, has introduced a new level of sophistication through his latest launch, Dartmoor

Investment Trust. It is essentially a split-level trust investing in other split-level trusts.

There are two types of split-level trust. The first, dual-capital version has income shares, which basically take all the dividends from the underlying portfolio, and capital shares, which take the capital growth.

A new generation adopts a different split. Typically they have zero coupon preference shares which are guaranteed a high fixed return to maturity, and ordinary shares, which have a high initial income (thanks to the zero coupon preference) but which also gain the residual capital

growth. This makes them potentially more attractive than the old income shares.

Dartmoor is essentially a shared-equity type trust investing mainly in the income and high income ordinary shares of split-level trusts. An additional sophistication is that it is split between £20 million ordinary shares and £16 million of 6 per cent index-linked debentures — already placed — whose income and capital rise in line with inflation. To help meet the capital growth needed for index-linking, 15 per cent of the portfolio will be invested in capital shares and up to 15 per cent of the trust's income will be retained.

Even so, the ordinary shares stand to have an initial dividend yield of 13 per cent, about 2 or 3 per cent higher than conventional dual-capital income shares. Income should grow well if company dividends continue to outpace inflation. If underlying share prices do so too, they can achieve strong capital growth.

The necessary snag is that the ordinary shares bear a variety of risks. There is an element of double gearing since one trust is investing in others.

The ordinary shares also bear the risk of inflation, which could gear real net asset value down sharply if share prices lag inflation over a long period. There is a smaller risk to income or income growth.

The trouble is that the investor who wants high income, such as a retired person with limited capital, does not want risk. One basically friendly critic suggests that Mr Henderson has invented a Sinclair C5 investment vehicle — a brilliant concept that will appeal to no one. More fairly, the market is limited to groups wanting high income but who can afford risk.

Mr Henderson and Greg Middleton, broker to the issue, have identified and targeted just such a group — non-working spouses in affluent households who can take advantage of separate taxation.

A 13 per cent yield with potentially good capital growth will certainly look attractive when interest rates fall. For most people though, trusts such as Dartmoor should be held only as part of a diversified portfolio. Subscription is open until April 23.

Edited by John Bell

GILT-EDGED

Inflation trend leaves market looking fragile

Will the Prime Minister allow the Chancellor to continue with his bid for the EMS or will he take him out like his predecessor... into a different suit? The gilt market's intense interest in this question is only natural in view of the number of trump cards the Government would hold in the EMS.

But the Budget leaves nagging doubts about fiscal policy and the Government's ability to play those cards safely. The PSDR, swollen by asset sales, gives the impression that fiscal policy is tight. Yet the public sector's financial surplus, which shows its net withdrawal of cash from the flow of income and expenditure in the economy, is nothing like as large.

The Budget forecast for 1990-91 is just £2.6 billion, down from £8.7 billion in 1988-89. Indeed, this forecast is based on last autumn's departmental expenditure plan, which has been overtaken by events, and particularly, much higher poll tax rebates and rates of inflation.

These two factors have exhausted more than a third of the £8 billion reserve for this financial year even before it began, and it is now unrealistic to expect more than a broad financial balance this year. A substantial deficit is likely next year.

But despite this deterioration, the Treasury maintains the private borrower is responsible for our present woes, and that high interest rates will curb his appetite. But what about the accounting identity between the private sector's deficit and the surpluses of the government and overseas sectors — the current account deficit?

We all saw how this relationship operated on the way up, but how will it work on the way down? With the public accounts indicating broad balance, a basic point is becoming obvious. If high interest rates were ever to eliminate the private deficit with tax and benefit rates unchanged, this would leave the Government with a substantial deficit, entirely responsible for the remaining current account deficit.

In other words, the underlying public sector position is one of financial deficit, not surplus, and a better balance

in the financial accounts would require both high interest rates and a tighter fiscal policy.

This sort of analysis would become rather academic if sterling were successfully to join the ERM. Because, then the risk premium on sterling would erode, eventually bringing British interest rates into line with those in other European financial centres.

That would play havoc with the sectoral balances and the Government would have to rely on fiscal policy to deal with the private sector deficit and other structural problems. Consequently, most studies of the EMS option conclude that a tighter fiscal policy would help shoo-horn sterling into the ERM.

It still seems surprising, therefore, that the Chancellor did not take the proverbial first step towards the ERM by tightening up the fiscal side in the Budget.

He was presumably advised that existing policies would be enough to cool the economy and slow the wage price spiral so it would be safe to join. This judgement could still be vindicated, but leaves little margin for error, making the EMS scenario and gilt market hostage to Government's inflation horizons.

The gilt yield curve will tend to flatten if and when news of EMS entry hardens. But this could be from the short or long end.

The pound will suffer badly if it ever looks as if the base rate cuts planned for next summer will occur without an EMS cushion. The collapse of the first quarter admittedly leaves gilts better valued, with the curve much less inverse and the differential between 1 1/4 per cent of 2003-07 and 2 1/2 per cent index-linked of 2005 offering a 7 1/2 per cent allowance for inflation.

That would be generous if the core rate of inflation were on a downward trend and we had a Chancellor who was prepared to take unpopular measures when it looked like going up. But it is not clear that this is the case, and until something happens to clarify the situation, the market must remain fragile.

Peter Spencer
Shearson Lehman
Hutton Securities

BRUSSELS VIEWPOINT

Europe warns US and Japan over open market deal

IN RESPONSE to fears that European businesses may lose out to American competitors, the European Commission is expected to warn the US and Japan that their new deal to open up the Japanese market must not exclude Japan's other trading partners.

Giving the Commission's initial reaction to the Structural Impediments Initiative agreed by the US and Japan on April 5, an EC spokesman said: "We insist the potential results be applied multilaterally, not just to the United States."

Washington has extracted a promise from Tokyo to ease curbs on building super-markets, spend more on public works and prize open its network of cosy business relationships with tougher anti-trust rules.

Brussels would like such measures tackled under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) rather than unilaterally, but it respects that Japan's trade surplus with the US (\$45 billion) is far greater than with the EC (\$20 billion).

MOVES are afoot to create a standard telephone card for public kiosks throughout the EC. The Commission has asked two bodies of standards experts to find ways of making cards compatible.

It is unclear whether British Telecom and the EC's other PTTs would be obliged or merely encouraged to adapt to new norms once they had been devised.

AFTER a first look at Sabena World Airways, the joint venture between British Airways, Sabena and KLM, the Commission suspects that the link-up may be in breach of EC competition rules, and has asked competitors to submit any further complaints by April 30.

The Commission's inquiry — which has no bearing on the current investigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission — must be concluded by June 30.

The three airlines want exemption from EC rules,

arguing that by creating Sabena World Airways they are merely stepping out on a path prepared by the EC's new air deregulation policy.

Economic benefits outweigh the threat to free competition, they argue, in that the venture will increase traffic to as many as 75 European towns, will create 4,000 jobs in towns newly served by flights from the Brussels hub and will boost transport infrastructure in Northern Europe.

AIRLINES have attacked new EC measures designed to compensate the victims of overbooking.

The Association of European Airlines believes that Brussels' plans are "economically unbearable," arguing that they would force carriers to pay out crippling sums in compensation to passengers whose journey is delayed by overbooking.

The AEA fears that airlines carrying a passenger a short distance before he connects with a long-haul flight could have to pay a portion of the entire sum if he misses his connection as a result of overbooking.

NATIONAL experts who are chiselling into shape the EC's plans for a single market in investment services have agreed that an investment house should be free to operate on any European securities market, but no uniform model should be imposed. An initial reading of the EC's proposal will be concluded by July.

There is optimism that a single investment services market would be ready by the end of 1992.

Parallel rules establishing the capital adequacy of investment houses threaten to hold it back, however.

The Commission is due to unveil these by the end of April, but serious delays could follow, not least because the EC is treading entirely new ground, with few world standards by which to set its own.

Peter Guilford
Brussels

East bloc 'to outstrip America in EC trade'

By Colin Narbrough, Economics Correspondent

EASTERN Europe's switch from Communism to capitalism means it could overtake North America as a market for exports from the European Community by the end of the century, says a report by four leading economic research institutes.

Produced jointly by Cambridge Econometrics, BIPE of Paris, Prometia of Bologna and IFO-Institut of Munich, the findings are based on a model predicting trade flows to eight Eastern European economies.

The report charts two likely scenarios for the region. One, the more pessimistic "valley of tears," expects Eastern Europe to be burdened by huge trade deficits with the West in 25 years; the second, called "healy take-off," foresees the trade gap closed by that time.

Under the first scenario, EC exports to the region will be growing at an annual rate of 5.6 per cent in 1995 and 9.8 per cent in 2000; and be worth \$53 billion and \$84 billion respectively.

The more favourable alternative anticipates EC exports growing at 10.4 per cent in

1995 and 15.8 per cent at the end of the century. The value is seen doubling to \$72 billion between 1988 and 1995, and doubling again by 2000 to \$145 billion.

But even in the gloomier forecast, EC trade with Eastern Europe should become more important in a decade than with North America.

The research treats West German sales to East Germany as exports, despite the possible early integration of the economies.

The 472-page report predicts large increases in exports from Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development countries to East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Bulgaria. It expects East Germany eventually to import more than 40 per cent of its gross domestic product in value terms, compared with 4 per cent now.

Given the time needed by Western economies, such as Britain, to adjust when reducing trade barriers, the Eastern Europeans are not expected to reach their "import potential" until early next century.

The "valley of tears" scenario assumes the short-

comings in the structure that Eastern Europe has inherited are huge and that political struggles will continue, implying frictions and depressed economic activity. This would delay take-off until late in the decade and is regarded as more probable, especially if the Soviet Union runs into severe transitory political problems.

The brighter option assumes quick and credible legislation to foster economic activity and a high propensity among Western firms to enter Eastern Europe.

The report touches upon the possibility of bleak "no future" feelings in Eastern Europe, if the region's problems appear insurmountable after some time, with a wave of migration to Western Europe as a consequence.

Europe in 1994, available from Cambridge Econometrics, 21 St Andrews St, Cambridge CB2 3AX (£750).

New Zealand has struck deals, mostly in agricultural technology, worth NZ\$9.6 million (£3.4 million) with Poland, East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Hungary.

Theme park still awaits a decision

By Martin Waller

A FINAL decision on whether to build a £2.5 billion Hollywood-on-Thames theme park on the Essex marshes will not be taken for two or three months, says MCA, the US studio planning the project.

This is despite the Government's decision last week to wave the scheme through without a planning inquiry.

MCA is still holding out the possibility that it may decide to relocate to France, despite the competition from the giant Euro Disneyland being built outside Paris, if its negotiations with landowners, transport authorities and sources of finance are unsuccessful.

Rank Organisation has an



Spielberg consultant role

agreement to take a half-share in the theme park, although not the surrounding property development, said Mr Ron Dane, MCA's adviser on the development.

There are also plans for the BBC to build permanent sets for its most popular programmes such as *Eastenders*, *Allo Allo* and *Grange Hill*, which would also serve as tourist attractions.

MCA says the completed development at Rainham Marshes, Essex, will be Britain's second biggest commercial property development with 8 million sq ft of space, dwarfed only by Olympia & York's Canary Wharf and larger by 1 million sq ft than the Broadgate development in the City of London.

The Hollywood theme park, which has Mr Steven Spielberg, the film producer, as consultant, will feature attractions from MCA's biggest films such as *ET*, *Jaws* and *King Kong*. Mr Chris Patten, the Environment Secretary, last week said it would not need a public inquiry, despite objections from environmentalists, although the developers have had to make concessions to the green lobby.

Mr Keith Williams, managing director of D & B, said: "Fears of a recession appear to be obviously easing. The improved level of optimism over the previous quarter of 1990 may be attributable to the clearer outlook for the UK economy."

He said interest rates were still high but did not look like going much higher. Sterling was showing some stability and the trade gap was narrowing.

The survey points to the weak pound having a beneficial effect on exports, particularly in manufacturing with the best opportunities reported in durable goods, such as cars and televisions.

The survey findings are not all favourable. The index for selling prices is up in most industrial sectors and by eight points overall, suggesting that inflation is likely to increase over the next three months. Employment prospects in manufacturing appear gloomy, but the outlook for jobs in construction is brighter.

"Spiro spun round and gasped as he suddenly caught sight of a dark figure about to leap out of the duty-free shop. "It was a cardboard promotion for Sandeman Port."

Recommended.
Goldstrike! published by Hutchinson Business Books, £15.95.

BOOK REVIEW

Post mortem on the ConsGold débâcle

By Colin Campbell, Mining Correspondent

CONSOLIDATED Gold Fields, the once-mighty British mining house on whose empire the sun never set, is no more.

Its corporate body, taken over in 1989 by Hanson, is slowly being dismantled. Minorco, which fired the wounding dart into ConsGold in 1988, now wanders the mining world like a jilted — but still merry — widow trying to spend its inheritance. And all the players in Britain's record running £3.5 billion takeover battle still spend long evenings over the port asking themselves whatever went wrong.

But the memory lives on, and the question: "Whatever did go wrong?" in the Anglo-American/De Beers-inspired and Minorco-executed 1988-89 bid for ConsGold is examined in an incisive post mortem by City journalist Mr Bill Jamieson in *Goldstrike!*

The book is not so much about the bid as it is about the companies and personalities behind the bid. Behind Minorco stands Anglo-American Corporation of South Africa and De Beers two giants in their own right in the world of gold and diamonds.

Behind Anglo and De Beers stands Mr Harry Oppenheimer, a mining magnate and legend in his own lifetime, who even though retired from active Anglo/De Beers business is still regarded as being the significant force and ultimate mentor behind the Anglo vision.

Goldstrike! is appropriately subtitled *The Oppenheimer Empire in Crisis*, and in turn examines Anglo's need — and therefore the rationale of its original 1980 dawn raid on ConsGold — to reach out of South Africa.

That Anglo philosophy is still perti-

nent today as De Beers now finalises its own plans to de-merge South African and non-South African interests and heads for a Swiss base.

The Minorco-ConsGold bid battle had as many light as serious moments. The one-line quips from Mr Rudolph Agnew, ConsGold's chairman, commanded many a newspaper headline, and are liberally woven in.

"You can deny your bastard sons, you can't deny your parents." Mr Agnew once charged as he rattled the chain that tied Minorco to Anglo American.

There were few, if any, one-liners from Minorco, led into battle by Sir Michael Edwards. But then Minorco was itself torn between its Old Guard and its Young Turks, and was finally left agast that it was defeated by a New York judge in what, as Mr

Agnew admitted, "was the most winnable bid in history." Minorco did, however, allow itself some lighter moments during the battle.

Mr Jamieson records that after a crucial board meeting in Luxembourg, Minorco directors were waiting at the airport and on alert for "private eyes" from Kroll Associates which ConsGold had hired. Mr Sidney Spiro, a Minorco director, felt a tap on his shoulder. "Pard! Look over there," came an urgent whisper. "There's a Kroll detective staring right at you!"

"Spiro spun round and gasped as he suddenly caught sight of a dark figure about to leap out of the duty-free shop. "It was a cardboard promotion for Sandeman Port."

Recommended.
Goldstrike! published by Hutchinson Business Books, £15.95.

Demerged BAT papermaker expected to have £1.5bn price tag

WTA steps closer to flotation

By Derek Harris
Industrial Editor

WIGGINS Teape Appleton (WTA) has been formally created from two separate elements in BAT Industries ready for its June 1 Stock Exchange listing.

Mr Stephen Walls, WTA's chairman and chief executive, said: "The merger has just been completed which means the first phase is essentially in place. We are now a long way down the road to the demerger from BAT."

Listing particulars are due on May 10 and BAT meetings are scheduled for May 31. To achieve the demerger there will be an issue of free shares to BAT holders.

The demerger follows last week's flotation of the Argos catalogue showroom subsidiary of BAT. BAT is close to finalizing a shortlist of interested buyers of the Saks and Marshall Field's stores in the US with a definitive announcement expected next month.

WTA, which will be the largest British-owned paper company and fourth largest in Europe, is likely to have a price tag above £1.5 billion. It should be in the FT-SE 100.

A small headquarters operation for the new company will be established in central London and Mr Walls is hunting for offices. The Wiggins Teape operational headquarters will remain in Basingstoke, Hampshire.

Appleton in the US and Wiggins Teape in Europe are both operating mainly in the high value-added paper business. WTA will be the world's largest maker of carbonless paper and Europe's leading producer of thermal papers. This paper is typically used for fax machines and sector sales have been growing by more than 35 per cent a year.

Although both Appleton and Wiggins Teape are big,



Paper wait: Stephen Walls relaxes at home yesterday before moving on to the next stage of the WTA flotation

especially in carbonless paper, they operate in distinct marketplaces so the closer operation from welding the two together will be in research and development, production technology and export markets outside north America and Europe.

Mr Walls, who was managing director of Plessey before its takeover by the General Electric Company and Siemens, feels it is necessary to get home the message that although WTA is in paper,

which is a cyclical industry, its involvement in high-value, high-sales areas, gives it a special character. He has just hosted 15 meetings with City institutions from which there was, he said, "some good feedback."

He is well aware that WTA could be a tempting takeover target, and plans, in this order of priority, to pursue better organic growth from existing businesses, capitalize on synergies arising from the merged WTA and then "look on a sel-

ective basis at the possibility of using acquisitions to extend organic growth."

California state insurance regulators are due to make the first crucial US decision over Sir James' Goldsmith's £13.4 billion takeover of BAT Industries.

Nine months after his first bid was launched for the tobacco and financial group which owns Farmers, the California insurer, officials will rule on whether Sir James' Hovlake or the

French group Axa Midi Assurances would be fit and proper owners of Farmers. Officials have taken evidence from both Hovlake and the French financial company, which intends to buy Farmers for \$4.5 billion, should Sir James' bid go through.

There was increasing speculation over the weekend that the decision, which is expected to be handed down in a 50-page document in San Francisco today, is likely to be split.

Norton wins time in BTR bid battle

From John Davis, New York

NORTON Company, the Massachusetts heavy equipment producer, is pinning its survival chances largely on two separate legal events this week.

The company has rejected a \$1.6 billion takeover bid from BTR. The offer expires this Thursday, but the British company can extend it, and, in interviews with the Boston press last week, Mr John Cahill, the company's chief executive, showed no signs of giving in so early.

He even raised the prospect of a higher bid should the Norton board become more co-operative. At \$75 a share the offer is below most analysts' estimates of an \$80 share value for the company.

The Norton board has made clear that it hopes to find a white knight, and is examining a plan whereby an outside party and the company's employees would buy 35 per cent of the issued shares in the company.

Meanwhile, it hopes to delay the bid, pending legal developments in Massachusetts. Today, the State of Massachusetts Legislature will hold hearings on its planned legislation to prevent a company's board being overturned at a single agm. The

legislation was introduced to stop BTR winning a proxy fight to overturn the Norton board at the planned annual meeting on April 26.

Norton subsequently delayed this meeting for two months, a move that prompted further legal action by BTR last week. A Boston court has deferred its ruling until this week.

The Staggered Board Bill being considered today will mean only one-third of a company's directors can be changed at any one vote and there must be a 12-month period between votes on company boards.

This would make it impossible for any company to seize control of a board quickly.

Massachusetts state law is one of the strongest against takeovers in the United States. Its Business Combination Statute prevents anyone registering more than 5 per cent of a company's shares without board approval or support from 90 per cent of shareholders.

But Norton faces pressure from US institutional shareholders, which vigorously oppose tough anti-takeover laws and companies which seek protection under them.

Aquascutum may give A shares vote

By Melinda Wittstock

AQUASCUTUM, the British classic clothing company, may consider enfranchising holders of its non-voting A shares before its expected showdown with rebel investors at its annual meeting in June.

But Mr Gerald Abrahams, the chairman, said the group will not discuss any courses of action until its final results are published in two weeks and the board has had its first meeting with Mr Philip Birch, former chairman of Ward White, and Sir Peter Carey, former chairman of Morgan Grenfell, the two new non-executive directors.

Mr Gordon Getty, one of the world's richest men, is behind the rebel investors threatening to liquidate the



Getty: behind the rebels

company if the controlling Abrahams family rejects demands for enfranchisement and two seats on the board.

Waterfall, the consortium led by Mr Brian Myerson, a South African businessman, speaks for 27.2 per cent of the non-voting shares and claims it has backing of 14 large shareholders. "Between us we control over 75 per cent of the equity - enough to wind it up," he said. Talks between Aquascutum and Waterfall over creation of a single class of shares broke down after failure to agree compensation for holders of voting shares.

Mr Abrahams, whose family controls about 60 per cent of the voting shares, said: "I have no views on the question of enfranchisement, other than to say that it would have nothing to do with making the company more successful. But we'll listen to all views."

He added Waterfall is interested in Aquascutum only as "a money-making exercise" that would "destroy the company forever." If liquidated, all shares in Aquascutum would be treated equally, allowing Waterfall to realize more than its £40 million capitalization by closing it and selling its assets, including the valuable brand name.

Intrum Justitia expands in W Germany

INTRUM Justitia, the Netherlands group which claims to be Europe's largest and most profitable independent debt collector, has bought Adkasso and Merkur, two West German collectors, as part of its single market expansion.

Two deals near completion in Belgium and France will, with the German companies, boost group earnings by 10 to 12 per cent. Intrum, which is planning a London listing this year, last year acquired Unicol, a British collector. Group pre-tax profits were £4.84 million last year (£2.84 million) on revenue of £37 million (£25 million).

ECONOMIC VIEW

A temporary delay on the yen's sunset

The Group of Seven has moved as far as could have been expected in supporting the yen. By delicately threatening the wrath of the main central banks if the Japanese currency continues to behave like the setting sun, it may have succeeded, at least temporarily, in scaring an already nervous market into propping up the yen at about its present level.

No doubt this has something to do with last week's progress on the so-called Strategic Impediments Initiative - the latest attempt by the US to open Japanese markets to overseas competition. From the Japanese point of view, there is something odd about seeking help in making Japan less competitive as a *quid pro quo* for opening up Japanese import markets. Still, with inflation rising, the Bank of Japan, if not the government, will be glad of some help in stabilizing its fading currency.

The BoJ's worry is if interest rates go up again, the massive swings on the Tokyo stock market could turn into the fundamental reassessment of Japanese stock values which doomsters have been warning about.

The question is: how long will jaw, jaw save off renewed war, war in the foreign exchange markets? In the relatively short history of currency coordination, there have been two types of intervention by the G7. The process began with the Plaza meeting in September 1985 at which ministers agreed that a particular currency - the dollar - was out of line with economic fundamentals. With the Louvre accord in February 1987, this developed into a commitment to exchange-rate stability in general as opposed to corrective movement in particular.

The G7 has since reverted to the earlier form of intervention with the attempt last September to cap the dollar.

The message on the yen is the same. But is the yen fundamentally undervalued? Inflation is rising in Japan and interest rates are still well below international levels.

According to DKB International, the Dai-ichi Kangyo subsidiary, Japan's wholesale price figures for March, to be released on Friday, will show a rise in the year-on-year inflation rate from 3.5 per cent to 3.7 per cent. This may be satisfactory compared with about 5 per cent in Britain but compares with a rate of minus 1 per cent in Japan in the third quarter of 1988.

Apart from the danger to the Tokyo bourse, the difficulty of finding a solution in interest rates lies also with the internal politics of the countries involved. The BoJ has been concerned at rising inflation for months and argued for a much earlier rise in rates, but party politics intervened.

A less damaging split is also evident in the US where most of the Federal Reserve Board is determined not to cut

interest rates, while the Administration is less concerned about inflation and more about jobs. While the Fed would probably favour a further rise in Japanese rates, President Bush and the Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady are more prepared to go the route of intervention.

There is an even more glaring example of the split between government and central banks in West Germany. There the central bank has got the finance and economics ministers on its side but failed to carry the rest of the Cabinet.

When the German finance minister Herr Theo Waigel briefed his G7 colleagues on Saturday on the latest developments on economic and monetary union in Germany, his colleagues must have wondered how far he spoke for the government.

It is clear that a battle royal has developed within West Germany over the terms for converting East German marks into Deutschmarks. The Bundesbank is relaunching its offensive, but if the German Chancellor Herr Helmut Kohl is determined to defend his position of converting the two currencies one-for-one, it is difficult to see how he can be dislodged.

As our own Chancellor, John Major, remarked to the Treasury Select Committee last week, the Bundesbank's record on countering inflation is impressive. But if it is one-for-one, the odds against increased German interest rates will shorten.

The spectacle of central banks at odds with government in each of the three biggest G7 countries underlines again the tensions monetary affairs impose on policymakers. As Mr Major said in the same session with the Treasury Committee, it is the policies rather than the institution administering them which are important. But it was rather odd of him with one breath to praise the Bundesbank's record and, with the next, to deny any merit in greater independence for the Bank of England. It is, after all, not only the policies being pursued but also the likelihood of their continuing to be pursued which is important and which financial markets take into account.

As I argued in this column a few weeks ago, there is much to be said for a more independent Bank of England. The intermediate step is for the Bank to take a more distinctive view of policy in public. This is exactly what has happened in the past few weeks. The Governor's own evidence to the select committee was a good deal more enlightening than the Chancellor's, and last week he took the process a stage further in his speech in Durham anatomizing the policy failures of the past two years. The policy-making environment is likely to be healthier for a more open discussion.

Rodney Lord

Economics Editor, Paris

Wealth of Smith

AS THE 200th anniversary of the death of Adam Smith, the father of political economics, comes round, the squabbling has started. At least two conferences are planned to mark the occasion this summer. World Business Forum - backed by Scottish Financial Enterprise and the Scottish Development Agency - fields Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, who delivers an encomium for its Wealth of Nations 1990 World Business Conference starting on June 27. In keeping with the spirit of the times, it has also managed to find a real live member of the Soviet Politburo and an expert on terrorism. The Institute of Economic Affairs is promoting the Adam Smith Bicentenary Conference on July 16 and 17 and is promising "several of the world's leading Nobel Laureates" and capping the proceedings with a ceremony at the Scottish economist's grave. The Adam Smith Institute, the free market think tank, stole a march on the others by starting its own celebrations last year and is including a fund-raising appeal and a dinner to be addressed by Nicholas Ridley on July 17, marking the actual date of Adam Smith's death. Not to be outdone, it is considering its own conference.

Robin Leigh-Pemberton's readiness to make his gubernatorial utterances "clear" rather than in the Old Lady's

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Witan Trust goes green

Witan Investment Trust has followed the advice of the good Dr Pangloss and is cultivating its garden - it has agreed the first-ever sponsorship by any company of one of the Royal Horticultural Society's monthly flower shows. The decision to sponsor the late April show at the Society's premises in Vincent Square,

customary "Delphic code" was again in evidence in his recent remarks at Durham Castle. But do not imagine the Governor of the Bank of England is alone in seeking a more independent central bank as monetary union looms ever larger in Europe. While Karl Otto Pöhl at the Bundesbank is busy warding



"My horse took such a tumble they renamed it Lowndes Queensway."

off Bonn's invasion of his model independence, his colleagues in other centres are coming out of the government closet. Alfons Verplaetse, the Flemish-speaking, pro-de-regulation head of the Belgian central bank, is the latest to declare his plans for independence - "By the end of the year we will be as independent as the Bundesbank."

Mr Leigh-Pemberton admitted Government policy errors in its economic affairs at Durham Castle. But my spies suggest difficult economic times may even be taking their toll on the Governor's own affairs. He submitted some sheep from his Kent farm to a disappointing response. The average price was £25-£30 a head, against the £36-£40 he could have expected.

The Internal Revenue in the US has caught up with another miscreant and penalized tax-payer George Wittmer \$159.78 for underpayment of tax. His crime? When he sent in his return and cheque it was short - by one cent.

Ball with a view

GREG Hutchings, the chief executive of the building to engineering group FH Tomkins, when not taking his company on to yet new heights, can apparently be found hunkering round a hockey pitch in the red and white shirt of Richmond Hockey Club. And that particular London club is, it seems, something of a favoured haunt for other City worthies. For while Hutchings is guaranteed a fairly regular place in the first team, the lesser ranks comprise such notables as Michael Jackson, a director of Guidehouse, Nick Hilton, a partner at accountancy firm Moore Stephens and Peter Truman, former finance director of BMP, the advertising agency. And on the evening of July 28 they will all be thrown together once again, with other hockey players, at Hurlingham, for the Hockey Ball, organized by the Friends of Richmond Hockey Club. But before it can get off the ground, stockbroker Max Bascombe, aged 31 - an ex-Citicorp Scrimageur Vickers European equity salesman, now looking to move into mergers and acquisitions - is trying to find a sponsor for the event, so that they can raise sufficient funds to pay for their coach to work with children in the Richmond area. "We're looking for someone prepared to stump up about £5,000," says Bascombe. "Since most of the people are aged between 22 and 35, it will be a good venue for cigarette or drinks companies."

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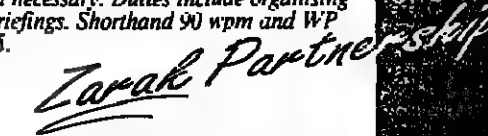
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Attention switches to Rugby League's premiership after Great Britain's international defeat by France

Nevertheless, the Trinity

In the second half Kerry kicked a penalty for Salford, and then the home side pro-

BROOKSIDE SALFORD TRINITY: Full S. Brown, Goals: Kerry 3, Whitefield Trinity: Three; Eden 3, Mason, Leatual. Goals: Conway 4.

SALFORD: M. Brinkman, A. N. O'Neil, D. Fall, T. Howard, S. Kerry, F. Cassidy, S. Brown, S. O'Neil, M. Moran, M. Brooks-Cramer (Rep: M. Gil), I. Gormley, I. Blease, M. Lee (Rep: A. Burgess).

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Reference: J. Smith (Hullford).
Trials

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP: (Not including St Helens v Sheffield): Featherstone 24, Bradford 18; Hull 44, Warrington 18; Salford 18, Wakefield 28. Postponed: Leigh v Castleford.

Workington Town, who set Cumbria alight in mid-week with their unexpected success over Oldham, came back down to earth in the struggling to a 11-0 home win over Doncaster, who have had a disappointing season.

	P	W	D	L	F	A Pts
Hull KR	69	20	8	3	1025	173
Rochdale	55	23	10	1	805	162
Oldham	49	29	0	3	1037	109
Preston Y	26	18	1	0	1013	156
Helliford	26	18	0	0	694	227
Barnes	26	18	0	0	734	27
Dewsbury	26	17	1	0	473	363
Fulham	26	15	2	0	442	456
Dorchester	27	14	2	1	499	391
Trafford	27	14	2	1	605	462
Grimsby	27	14	2	1	574	57
Batley	27	13	0	14	490	432
Hunslet	27	10	0	17	425	627
Bramley	26	10	0	16	395	586
Doncaster	26	10	0	16	374	587
Whitwell	26	9	0	17	375	682
Carlisle	27	8	0	19	487	921
Workington	27	8	0	19	307	699
Barrow	27	8	0	19	374	700
Nottingham	27	4	0	23	315	598
Rumson	27	0	0	27	216	854

Bishop's move: what the Briton has, he holds close to his chest, despite the grasping ambitions of Rabe

By Keith Macklin

expression was granite grim. It remained tense and anxious until France fought their way back to 12-10 with a second penalty by Fraisse, which brought a flicker of a smile.

After 52 minutes, a great run by the powerful left wing, Pous, set up a try for Rabot, and when Fraisse landed a superb goal, to put France 16-12 ahead, tears of joy flooded down Jorda's cheeks.

Another penalty by Fraisse with the last kick of the match sealed over and, as the hooter sounded, Jorda leapt into the air and rushed on to the Headingley

While France rejoiced, it was the turn of the Great Britain coach, Malcolm Reilly, to be grim of face as he went home to contemplate revision of the names he had in mind for the tour of Papua New Guinea and New Zealand. As Reilly admitted afterwards, several players are out of contention after their performances at Hensleydale.

There were excuses for Britain in the absence of six experienced international players in the captain, Hanley, Lydon, Goodway, Platt, Gregory and Loughlin but the reserves and new caps did little to enhance their own reputations.

One of these underachievers was the former Cardiff wing, Cordell, who started his international career with a try at the corner made by the deputy captain, Edwards, Stevan and the other reserves. Most of the delight faded later when Fors was several times brushed him aside and he was substituted by Irwin.

The alarm bells were not rung for Britain when they lost 12-14 to France in the first round. An excellent one made for Tait by the industrious Edwards and Betts. From then on it was all downhill for Britain, while France put their game together and produced excellent flowing rugby.

The main of the match, Dumais, sent over Potts in the

[illegible]

STEVIE Farrell, the strong man of yesterday's Overroom International Grand Prix, broke clear to claim victory in the 103-mile race in the Chilterns.

Farrell, whose recent training has included riding at a steady dynamo on — rather like a brake — and Brian Smith, the Scottish international, moved clear of the pack four miles from the end.

Farrell, watched that he did not lose his momentum, finally sprang first, successfully attacked Smith on a slight rise and was on his own, into the teeth of a bitter north wind.

Steven Cook, the Walsingham champion, won the race for second place.

Farrell's victory means that he remains at the top of the Star Trophy competition, the season-long contest decided by 10 races.

Farrell's Overroom International Grand Prix (70 miles) ride, 11.48 Farrell (Tintner), 12.00 Smith, 12.05 Cook (Vale), 12.08 Cook (Vale), 12.10 Smith (Vale), 12.15 Cook (Vale), 12.20 Smith (Vale), 12.25 Cook (Vale), 12.30 Smith (Vale), 12.35 Cook (Vale), 12.40 Smith (Vale), 12.45 Cook (Vale), 12.50 Smith (Vale), 12.55 Cook (Vale), 13.00 Smith (Vale), 13.05 Cook (Vale), 13.10 Smith (Vale), 13.15 Cook (Vale), 13.20 Smith (Vale), 13.25 Cook (Vale), 13.30 Smith (Vale), 13.35 Cook (Vale), 13.40 Smith (Vale), 13.45 Cook (Vale), 13.50 Smith (Vale), 13.55 Cook (Vale), 14.00 Smith (Vale), 14.05 Cook (Vale), 14.10 Smith (Vale), 14.15 Cook (Vale), 14.20 Smith (Vale), 14.25 Cook (Vale), 14.30 Smith (Vale), 14.35 Cook (Vale), 14.40 Smith (Vale), 14.45 Cook (Vale), 14.50 Smith (Vale), 14.55 Cook (Vale), 15.00 Smith (Vale), 15.05 Cook (Vale), 15.10 Smith (Vale), 15.15 Cook (Vale), 15.20 Smith (Vale), 15.25 Cook (Vale), 15.30 Smith (Vale), 15.35 Cook (Vale), 15.40 Smith (Vale), 15.45 Cook (Vale), 15.50 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The trouble with Norman perhaps is that he is too much of a Mr Nice Guy

Still in the shadow of his hero

Augusta

THE prominence in the Masters tournament of the 50-year-old Jack Nicklaus and Greg Norman's wretched first two days and failure to make the cut for the first time, is an embarrassing coincidence. It has been an unstated, and as yet unfulfilled, notion that Norman was to assume the mantle of Nicklaus, who was his hero when he was a teenager and later his mentor and friend. The plot has misfired.

It is sad for Norman, the most agreeable of sportsmen, that he has not, by far, matched the achievements of Nicklaus. It is more than ever being asked, after the eclipse of the past week, whether Norman may be too agreeable by nature; whether Nicklaus has been too much his idol for his own good.

Norman does not need reminding of the statistics. Nicklaus, before 1990, had won 18 "majors", if we exclude his United States amateur titles of 1959 and 1961, four US Opens, three British Opens, six Masters, five USPGA Championships. Norman's total is one: the 1986 British Open at Turnberry. By Norman's present age, 35, Nicklaus had won 14 "majors".

It is no criticism, merely a calculation of a man who is undoubtedly an exceptional and exciting player, to suggest that possibly Norman does not possess the dogged temperamental quality to produce his brilliance in the weeks when he most needs to. We are what we are. Ballesteros has the quality, so, probably, has Faldo. Maybe Norman is too nice.

We can be sure that he would happily forgo much of the \$10 million he made last year from endorsements alone — thanks to professional services from Mr McCormack — in return for one or more of



David Miller

the titles that would more firmly establish him among the greats of the game: a position he cannot yet claim.

He may have astronomical gross earnings from the game but in prize-money terms, though playing in a more lucrative era, he is way behind Nicklaus. With 70 US Tour victories up to 1989, to Norman's seven, Nicklaus's career earnings were \$5 million against Norman's \$3 million; never mind that Norman had 58 victories elsewhere in the world.

Norman, in his revenge for Nicklaus, went to live in the same place, building himself a nearby house in the North Palm Beach millionaire's playground in Florida. Was that, in retrospect, really wise?

A sportsman has to be his own man. Another player can be an inspiration, yet you sense that with Nicklaus still in the limelight there is an inhibition within Norman that prevents him emulating his hero. Nicklaus's continuing eminence may have become an obstacle rather than a challenge.

Nor was Nicklaus's response to questions, after their round together on the first day when Norman shot 78 to Nicklaus's 72, phrased in what seemed a reciprocal friendship. Asked about Norman's game, Nicklaus said: "I was very, very surprised at the way he played. He did not play well at all. I feel badly for him because I know how much he wanted to win the tournament. He just didn't do anything right."

It would be one thing for Nicklaus to express those

sentiments in private, to Norman in person; it is quite another to use such words to the world's Press. If they got back to Norman, which undoubtedly they would, coming from the man he so admires, they would be particularly hurtful.

The suspicion that Norman finds Nicklaus's presence on the tour a discomfort was evident when he was asked for his feelings on being paired with the game's newest senior. He hesitated some while before acknowledging that, yes, he was delighted.

Norman may yet emerge into glory, as opposed to glamour, but time is starting to run against him. Four years have passed since his incredible season of 1986 when he twice won on the US Tour, was second four times and had 10 places in the top 10 in 19 starts; won the British Open, the European Open, the World Match Play Championship and three successive tournaments in Australia.

Yet the near misses that year were perhaps just as significant. In all four leading tournaments, he led after three rounds but won only one. In the US Open, he finished twelfth. Last year he earned sympathy rather than criticism when, after a scintillating 64 on the final day of the British Open at Troon, which tied him for the leadership with Calzaghe and Grady, he fluffed the play-off.

It is said that other players' good luck, rather than his own bad luck, has critically cost him the big titles. He has never complained. His thrilling capacity to race away from the field when his game clicks makes him, together with his striking physical appearance, compulsive viewing for the crowds. But we are unavoidably left asking: what is wrong?



Taking the credit: Nicklaus acknowledges applause after his charge up the leader board

Maturity of Barnes belies age

By Peter Dixon

IT TOOK an old hand on young shoulders to win the Berkhamsted Trophy on Saturday. The first of the English season's leading amateur singles tournaments was won by Jonathan Barnes, aged 19, of Brookmans, whose mature, unflinching approach to the game belied his age.

Playing in the event for the first time, Barnes, a Hampshire county player, finished the day on 144, two over par and two strokes ahead of the highly experienced Willison and Metcalfe.

In Leicestershire, however, it seemed that the Berkhamsted club might have had its first winner of the tournament since 1962. Playing alongside Barnes, Leicestershire was also in good form. After reaching the turn all square, both players having dropped two strokes, the pressure started to play cruel tricks on the local man — the hopes of the large home crowd weighing heavily on him.

Coming to the 13th, Leicestershire held a one-stroke advantage, thanks to two birdies and a bogey in the first three holes to Barnes's three pars; coming to the 16th, he was three strokes down after dropping four strokes in three holes while Barnes continued inexorably towards his first big title with pars on each of the last nine holes. By the finish, six strokes separated the two of them.

LEICESTERSHIP FINAL SCORERS: 144: J Barnes (Berkhamsted), 71, 73, 148: R Willison (Leicestershire), 71, 72, 143: J Metcalfe (Armit Hall), 75, 74, 149: J Scott (Hodgkiss), 74, 75, 149: P Barnes (Berkhamsted), 74, 75, 149: M Greenhalgh (Hodgkiss), 74, 75, 149: K Fairbank (Berkhamsted), 71, 73, 144: A New (Berkhamsted), 72, 73, 145: P Sutton (Berkhamsted), 71, 73, 144.

Singh's grip on lead proves too firm for his challengers

From Mel Webb Valencia

VIJAY Singh, the leader from the moment the starter's gun was fired, still had his nose in front at the tape yesterday when, with a total of 278, 10 under par, he won the El Bosque Open by two strokes from Richard Bonall and Chris Williams.

Singh, aged 27, won the second Volvo Tour event of his short European career, having taken the Volvo Open title in Scotland last year. That experience must have done him good, because this time he won like a veteran. Put under pressure throughout the day by Bonall and Williams, and others who threatened then faded, Singh finally put paid to their challenge with a birdie three on the 15th hole.

He hooked his tee shot badly — one of the few times his newly-acquired metal driver had let him down all week — but recovered beautifully with an eight-iron to about 18 inches. Gratefully he tapped the putt in, which put him two ahead, and after that he guarded his lead with the ferocity of a

Card of the course				
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50	4	4	4	4

mother bear protecting her cubs. Two pars followed, and when he arrived on the 18th green he had three putts for the title from 20 feet.

Coolly he took two of them, completed a round of 69, and a few minutes later was thanking his wife, the club, the Tour and everybody but the man who cleaned his shots and tucking a cheque for £33,330 in his pocket.

The tall Fijian made his mark early on. He birdied the 3rd then picked up another shot on the 4th, where he sank a 10-foot putt. His new putter, in use for the first time this week, let him down for the first and only time

when it was needed three times from no more than 15 feet on the next to let a shot slip away.

But another birdie from 2½ feet on the 7th followed by a bogey four at the short 8th took him to the turn in 35, still a shot in front of the field.

Challenged in mid-round by a capricious breeze which can make the magnificent El Bosque course such a formidable opponent, he tamed the 424-yard 10th with a three-wood and a sand wedge to four feet.

After that he got down to winning the tournament. Par golf followed all the way in, except for the all-important 15th. Nobody could have dreamt that this was a man who less than two years ago was pursuing a player's card at the Tour qualifying school.

Meanwhile, Bonall and Williams both had their chances but failed to take them. Bonall could have finished second on his own, but left his putt on the 18th an agonizing few inches short, while Williams made sure of sharing second place on the last with a mastery shot from way out on the practice ground and a five-foot putt for a birdie.

It was good, close stuff but ultimately, the last-lap sprinters had to give best to the front-runner.

NEVILLE Chesworth, the chairman of West Hill Golf Club, and his son, Paul, begin another attempt today to return the Father and Son Foursomes trophy to the promoting club (a Special Correspondent writes).

Last year they came close, losing by two holes in the final to Tony and Gary Hovell of West Sussex. This time West Hill, which has not won since Brian and Tim Clarke triumphed in 1971, has been given a boost by a scratching which has created a place for John and Peter Tedder, an 18-handicap partnership.

Tonbridge come good at the finish

By John Hennessy

THE name of Tonbridge will be engraved on the Halford Hewitt Cup for the first time as a result of their victory over Malvern at Royal Cinque Ports yesterday. Tonbridge won by three matches to two.

Malvern, too, were striving for their first win in the tournament, which dates back to 1924 and, as both have been in the final recently — Tonbridge in 1987, Malvern in 1984 and 1986.

The match came to an exciting finish on the 18th green, when the whole contest depended on the third match, pitting Blaise Craven and Tim Jenkins, of Tonbridge, against Rob Anderson and Clive Edington.

The players came to the 17th green all square, with the odds very much on Malvern, since they were 10 feet from the hole and Tonbridge twice the distance. But Jenkins holed and Edington, no doubt unnerved, missed.

Edington, failing to take account of the fierce wind at his back, took a driver off the 18th

tee and reached the ditch. He nearly redeemed himself with a chip that missed by a millimetre, leaving Tonbridge two putts for the trophy. They took them both, though Jenkins might have hoped that Craven would have spared him the final putt from 2½ feet.

Tonbridge's other players were Geoffrey Clay and George Taggart in the top match, and Peter Saggars and Sean Baguley in the bottom. Three up with three to play, Taggart hit an eight iron to the 16th green to shut out Bob Beeson and Richard Thompson.

RESULTS: A Clay and G Taggart bt R Beeson and R Thompson, 3 and 2; B Saggars and S Baguley bt R Beeson and R Thompson, 3 and 2; C Jenkins and C Edington bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; D Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; E Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; F Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; G Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; H Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; I Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; J Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; K Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; L Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; M Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; N Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; O Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; P Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; Q Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; R Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; S Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; T Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; U Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; V Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; W Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; X Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; Y Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; Z Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; AA Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; AB Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; AC Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; AD Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; AE Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; AF Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; AG Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; AH Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; AI Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; AJ Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; AK Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; AL Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; AM Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; AN Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; AO Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; AP Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; AQ Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; AR Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; AS Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; AT Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; AU Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; AV Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; AW Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; AX Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; AY Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; AZ Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; BA Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; BB Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; BC Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; BD Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; BE Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; BF Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; BG Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; BH Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; BI Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; BJ Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; BK Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; BL Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; BM Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; BN Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; BO Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; BP Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; BQ Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; BR Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; BS Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; BT Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; BU Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; BV Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; BW Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; BX Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; BY Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; BZ Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; CA Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; CB Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; CC Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; CD Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; CE Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; CF Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; CG Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; CH Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; CI Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; CJ Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; CK Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; CL Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; CM Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; CN Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; CO Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; CP Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; CQ Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; CR Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; CS Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; CT Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; CU Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; CV Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; CW Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; CX Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; CY Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; CZ Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; DA Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; DB Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; DC Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; DD Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; DE Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; DF Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; DG Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; DH Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; DI Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; DJ Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; DK Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; DL Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; DM Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; DN Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; DO Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; DP Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; DQ Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; DR Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; DS Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; DT Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; DU Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; DV Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; DW Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; DX Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; DY Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; DZ Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; EA Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; EB Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; EC Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; ED Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; EE Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; EF Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; EG Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; EH Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; EI Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; EJ Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; EK Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; EL Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; EM Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; EN Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; EO Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; EP Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; EQ Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; ER Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; ES Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; ET Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; EU Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; EV Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; EW Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; EX Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; EY Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; EZ Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; FA Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; FB Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; FC Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; FD Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; FE Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; FF Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; FG Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; FH Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; FI Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; FJ Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; FK Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; FL Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; FM Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; FN Craven and D Jenkins bt R Anderson and C Edington, 1 hole; 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